



COUNCIL'S VOW OVER BID PLAN

Report by Sue Austin

SHROPSHIRE Council bosses say they are committed to helping Oswestry become a Business Improvement District – despite key talks having to be postponed at short notice after the shock resignation of leader Keith Barrow.

Mr Barrow, who represented Oswestry South Division, quit the role on Friday with immediate effect.

His resignation meant a crucial meeting on Monday to discuss whether Oswestry should become a Business Improvement District, or a BID as it is known, had to be cancelled at the eleventh hour. Attaining BID status will, through a levy on businesses, allow other channels of funding to be opened up for Oswestry town centre to improve footfall and boost trade.

Mr Barrow was due to have been at the talks with BID UK representatives and Oswestry Chamber of Commerce and Oswestry Town Council representatives.

However, Councillor Steve Charmley, who remains as Shropshire Council's deputy leader has pledged his support for the BID scheme.

Wisdom

Councillor Charmley, who represents Whittington on Shropshire Council, said: "I very much want to help and, diary allowing, will certainly be at the rearranged meeting. I was involved in a small way in setting up the Shrewsbury BID and hope I can contribute some pearls of wisdom. There were some teething problems in Shrewsbury and Oswestry could learn from those. Shropshire Council would be involved in a substantial way if Oswestry became a Business Improvement District as it would be contributing to the levy imposed on each business property in the town. For example we have the council offices and the leisure centre in Oswestry."

Councillor Malcolm Pate is awaiting formal election as the new Shropshire Council leader at its full meeting on Thursday next week.

Jools Payne, chairman of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce, said she was keen to rearrange the key BID meeting. She said: "Clearly this is a difficult time for Keith Barrow and the timing of his resignation with immediate effect on Friday wasn't great for Oswestry Chamber either."

"We had a long-standing all day meeting in the diary for Monday to scrutinise the potential to progress a BID proposal for Oswestry with Keith, his deputy Steve Charmley, consultants from BID UK, key members of Oswestry's business community and several councillors from Oswestry Town Council taking part."

"Chamber remains keen to explore the Oswestry BID potential and I will be inviting the new leader and deputy to participate in that discussion when things settle down a bit for Shropshire Council in the New Year."

● Changes – See Page 4

Thousands flock to enjoy towns' festive fun



Laura Oakley, Sam Oakley, Ben Laraway and Katy Laraway had a go at ice skating at Oswestry Christmas Live. Photo: Peter Shah.

THE towns of Oswestry and Welshpool are both well in the festive spirit after thousands of people attended Christmas events.

The streets of Oswestry were packed on Friday night when the Christmas Live festive spectacular was staged.

A fairground, an ice rink and streets stalls and entertainment made the event a huge success. The installation of a new waving Santa illumination also proved a big hit with families.

The town's old waving Santa illumination was not included in this year's festive lights display because of electrical issues. A Facebook campaign was set up calling for a replacement and it was supported by more than 1,400 people.

Town council bosses delighted the crowds by organising for a new Santa to be installed and a special countdown was held on Friday night as he was turned on.

The festive spirit continued on Saturday when thousands of people lined Oswestry's street to watch the traditional Christmas parade. Almost 50 floats took part in the celebration.

Traders hope the festive feelgood factor will continue tomorrow (Friday) when they stage Oswestry's inaugural late night Christmas shopping event.

Many shops have agreed to stay open late for the Christmas Retail Experience and there will be a variety of attractions and entertainment.

A Santa's Grotto will be set up at the Guildhall and a special Christmas Trail has been established for families to enjoy.

Live music will be performed at various key points around the town and there will be several street stalls.

Meanwhile, the Christmas spirit is alive and well in Welshpool after many people attended the switching-on of the town's Christmas lights on Friday and then visited its annual winter festival on Saturday.

Town Clerk Robert Robinson said: "You only have to see how many people come into the town for the Winter Festival to see how much it matters."

● Turn to Pages 27 and 28 for our coverage of the festive events

HOSPITALS

Future Fit row is 'placing healthcare of residents at risk'

SHROPSHIRE'S Future Fit hospital debate is placing at risk the adequate healthcare of Oswestry residents, councillors have claimed.

The town council is calling on health chiefs to provide an urgent care centre for Oswestry now and take it out of the Future Fit discussion programme. Councillors said Future Fit, which aims to redesign the county's health services, was in disarray. A preferred option for the location of a new single A&E unit for Shropshire, either at Telford's Princess Royal or the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, was due to be announced by those leading Future Fit in October. But neither option properly addressed a £20 million-plus deficit for health services in Shropshire and the decision was deferred.

Former mayor Councillor John Gareth Jones raised his frustration at Monday's Oswestry Town Council meeting. He said after the meeting: "We are getting nowhere, it is all talk and no action. Already £3 million has been spent on talking about it and they haven't got anywhere."

The council is to write to Shropshire's Clinical Commissioning Group saying it believes the Future Fit programme "places at risk adequate healthcare for the Oswestry residents". It will urge the group to provide an urgent care centre for Oswestry and take the matter out of the Future Fit programme.

● Decision – See Page 3

WEATHER

Bridge closure to remain in place

AN 18th century bridge remains closed amid fears it could collapse because of recent flooding.

Llandrinio Bridge on the B4393 over the River Severn north of Welshpool will remain shut until water levels recede, council bosses have said. It was found to be at "significant risk" of collapsing last week and engineers from Powys County Council will investigate the damage in the near future.

The bridge was affected by severe flooding which hit the Oswestry and Welshpool area.

● Warning – See Page 4

INSIDE

It's panto time (Oh yes it is!)



PAGE 8

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Council bosses issue fresh warning over budget cuts

Report by Sue Austin

COUNCIL tax increases alone cannot replace funding lost to Powys under national economic changes, the county council has warned.

Powys County Council has just ended a budget consultation exercise which asked the public for views on how it should reduce its spending by £27m over the next three financial years.

Council leader Barry Thomas said: "During the consultation we received a great deal of very positive feedback but were also asked by many residents why the council tax increase of four per cent that we approved earlier this year was not enough to balance the four per cent cut in government support and why we are still looking for savings.

"The council receives its funding from three main sources, two controlled by the Welsh Government – the revenue support grant and funding from business rates – and the third being the money raised locally through council tax."

Cabinet member for finance, Councillor Wynne Jones added: "Although local government finance is complex the answer is quite straightforward, it is the relative size of the funding pots that makes the difference.

"Since government funding makes up the vast majority of our budget a four cut in their side is much larger than the four per cent on our side.

"If we assume a budget of £300m – for illustrative purposes only – the Welsh Government element would be £225m and council tax raised in Powys would be £75m.

"A four per cent cut in the Welsh Government side reduces funding by £9m while a four per cent increase in council tax provides an extra £3m leaving a £6m shortfall.

"When you add inflationary pressures caused by wage increases, national insurance, unavoidable legislation changes and increased service demands the size of the problem becomes all-too clear.

"We would have to increase council tax by around 24 per cent to offset national spending changes, something that is not acceptable."

"As a consequence the council will have to continue looking for savings reductions across all council budgets for the foreseeable future," he added.

There's big cheers as village pub reopens



Jon and Joanna Lewis take up the reins at The Talbot in Ruyton-Xi-Towns

A PUB in a north Shropshire village has reopened as the latest to be run by a county brewery.

The Talbot in Ruyton-Xi-Towns, near Oswestry, is the 20th to be taken over by Joule's Brewery of Market Drayton and has reopened after a major refurbishment.

Landlady Joanna Lewis said: "We have been overwhelmed by the support and encouragement we have had from family and friends.

"Equally from locals we have had the pleasure of talking to and meeting through our weekends spent cleaning and planning.

"We are excited about our future here and the wonderful traditional pub we are taking on. We look forward to showing that there is plenty of life in the old dog yet."

To celebrate the reopening of The Talbot, known locally as The Dog, Joule's Brewery prepared a commemorative brew, Captain Luxmoore's Extra Sunshine Ale, which was offered as a complimentary pint to all guests attending the official opening last Wednesday.

And the brewery team was honoured to have members of the Parry family attend the opening. From 1911 to 1985 the Parrys

served the community of Ruyton-Xi-Towns, first Edward the brewer in 1911, then Charles Parry and finally Reg Parry up until 1985. Reg's family were in attendance of the opening and very happy to view the restoration project that had taken place and to celebrate with a pint. The refurbishment included the old 15th century brewhouse where much of the original timber wattle and daub frames still remain. The original old oak beams and joists have all been painstakingly restored by hand stripping layer after layer of the residual paint which has been covering the building.

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Woman faked robbery on her last day

A PUB'S assistant manager faked a robbery while she was supposed to be taking more than £5,000 to the bank on her last day at work.

Sophie Gibbons had swapped her shift at the Highwayman pub in Oswestry so she would be trusted with taking the money during the morning shift on July 26 last year, Shrewsbury Crown Court was told.

The 22-year-old dialled 999 on her way to say she had been the victim of a robbery.

But the court heard Gibbons had in fact known the person who had taken the money and the whole thing had been set up.

Soon after she admitted the story to police and told officers she had been threatened and pressured into taking part.

Gibbons, of Sandringham Avenue in Oswestry, was handed a 16-month suspended sentence after admitting to conspiracy to steal and doing an act tending and intending to pervert the course of justice.

Debra White, for Gibbons, said: "At the time she committed these offences she was a young woman who was addicted to heroin."

Gibbons was also given a 12 month supervision order and will have to complete a seven week residential programme at a rehabilitation centre.

She was also ordered to do 120 hours unpaid work.

Expert at No 10 for housing talks

A SURVEYOR has been to Number 10 to help government advisors look at dealing with Britain's housing shortage

Philip Meade, of Davis Meade Property Consultants in Oswestry, was asked to join talks to find ways to speed up house building.

Mr Meade visited Downing Street in his role as chairman of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Dispute Resolution Professional Group Board.

He and the institute's head of research and development, Martin Burns, spent an hour and a half in discussions at Number 10 with policy advisers.

"The invitation to visit Number 10 followed on from meetings with the housing minister Brandon Lewis back in October at which various ways to help speed up the planning process were discussed," said Mr Meade.

Future Fit decision may come in 2017

A FINAL decision on the location for the new single A&E unit for Shropshire may be made in June 2017, health bosses have said.

A preferred option for the location of a new single A&E unit for Shropshire, either at Telford's Princess Royal or the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, was due to be announced by those leading the Future Fit health shake-up in October.

But neither option properly addressed a £20 million-plus deficit for health services in Shropshire and the decision was deferred.

David Evans, chief operating officer of Telford Clinical Commissioning Group, told board members at a meeting on Tuesday that following the decision to defer much work had been happening to move the process forward.

He said: "We now have a new time line set out. This time line shows that we hope to have a preferred option in June 2016 and formal public consultation will take place from December 2016. We hope to reach a final decision in June 2017. This assumes that the authorisation process will take place in the time allotted. This is a risk and it could take longer.

"These external approvals are not

within the programme's control. We will do everything we can to stick to the timetable. There is still work to be done on rural urgent care and community fit."

Mr Evans said at the last Future Fit programme board meeting, members reviewed the draft workforce case for change. He said workforce challenges was one of the key reasons why Future Fit was needed in the first place.

Warning issued as area dries out from flooding

Report by Pam Kingsley

COUNCIL bosses have reminded residents and visitors to take extra care in Mid Wales after the region was hit by flooding.

Walkers in Powys are being warned that walking trails remain affected by the recent severe flooding.

The Severn Way Recreational Trail and the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail are both hazardous due to flooding.

The section of public footpath shared by both trails between Pool Quay and Llandrinio is almost impassable due to the River Severn breaching its banks. Llandrinio Bridge, which carries the Severn Way, is closed for the foreseeable future.

Powys County Councillor John Powell, Cabinet Member for Countryside Services, said: "We are advising walkers and the public not to venture along the section of the trails in this part of the county. Users of the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail are being advised to get on the Montgomery Canal towpath at Buttington Wharf and head north to re-join the route of the trail at Four Crosses."

This week's fresh warning comes as the region continues to dry out after severe floods over past weeks, particularly in villages around Welshpool and Oswestry.

A van driver had to be rescued after getting stranded in three feet of water.

The driver was rescued from Back Lane in Llandrinio by a water rescue team in a boat after the alarm was raised just after noon on Wednesday last week.

An image from an aerial drone last week captured the impact of the recent storms.

The picture from 360skylens.co.uk shows the extent of the floods in Meverley near Oswestry.



This aerial drone image from 360skylens.co.uk shows the extent of flooding at Meverley near Oswestry

NEWS IN BRIEF

Get dressed up at garden centre

CHILDREN are being urged to grab the tinsel and get their creative skills going for a fancy dress competition.

The competition will be held at the Moreton Park Garden Centre, near Oswestry, on Saturday.

The Children's Tinsel Dress Up competition will be held at the centre at Gledrid at 10am.

Moreton Park Garden Centre manager Andrew Gledhill said: "We thought it would be a fun idea to host a tinsel dress up competition for children, to help celebrate our real tree weekends. We hope lots of children will enter the competition with their parents and create a festive 'outfit' made from tinsel on the day."

The event will be judged by members of the Moreton Park Garden Centre team who will give the owner of the most creative outfit a £100 gift voucher to spend at the centre. There will be one winner and entry is free.

To find out more about the competition call 0844 2885102 or ask at the centre for details.

Man is treated after acid leak

A MAN was taken to hospital after he was hit by acid leaking from a container.

A small amount of acid is believed to have hit the man in the face while he worked at a business close to Chirbury, near Montgomery, at about 11.15am on Monday. But the full extent of his injuries are not yet known.

A Midlands Air Ambulance helicopter was sent to the scene, but the man was taken to hospital by land ambulance. Lois Hough, spokeswoman for Welsh Ambulance Service, said: "We were called to reports a man had been injured in an industrial incident in the Chirbury area."

"We sent one emergency ambulance to the scene, and the man was taken to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital."

Fire crews from Bishop's Castle, Clun, Prees and Tweedale were also sent to the scene, along with an environmental protection unit.

New Aldi opens doors

OSWESTRY'S newest supermarket was due to open its doors to the public for the first time today (Thursday).

The new Aldi store in Shrewsbury Road has brought 30 jobs to the town.

The shop is the firm's second store in Oswestry. A Golden Ticket promotion was held for the store opening with prizes including a 40-in HD TV.

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Changes at the top for council after resignation

Report by Amy Downward

THE man ousted as the leader of Shropshire Council to make way for Keith Barrow will take control of the authority again.

Malcolm Pate was nominated as the new leader of the Conservative administration at Shirehall at a behind-closed doors meeting of the Tory group on Monday.

Councillor Pate is now awaiting formal election as leader of the council at its full meeting on Thursday next week. He was removed from his post by his Conservative colleagues in a secret ballot in June 2009. He was replaced by Mr Barrow, 62, who represented Oswestry South, stepped down on Friday just weeks after he was found to have breached the council's code of conduct over the declaration of a business interest.

Praise for ex-leader after move

SHROPSHIRE Council colleagues have given warm praise to former leader Keith Barrow after his shock announcement on Friday to quit the authority.

Mr Barrow quit the leadership role and as councillor for Oswestry South.

Shropshire Council deputy leader Steve Charmley said: "He did a fantastic job for the county but it is a long time to be in the job – six and a half, seven years, and it does wear you down.

"Keith's legacy is that he led this council through the difficult years and Shrewsbury University will stand as a long-lasting tribute to his leadership."

David Lloyd MBE, a senior member of Shropshire Council for Gobowen, Weston Rhyn and Selattyn, said: "I am extremely sad that Keith Barrow has decided to resign from the Council and as Leader.

"A consummate politician with the gift of dealing with complex budgetary issues he has exercised those skills in the face of remorseless economic pressure."

However, Liberal Democrat Councillor Andy Boddington, who represents Ludlow North, called for a "new broom" at the council following Mr Barrow's resignation.

He said: "I would say it is time for a complete change. We need a leader who will create consensus in the council and across the county."

"I would like to see scrutiny committees become what they are meant to be – independent scrutiny committees that challenge what the leadership does."

In a further development, West Mercia Police confirmed over the weekend it was investigating a complaint against a Shropshire man over alleged misconduct in a public office, which is believed to relate to Mr Barrow, who lives in Trefonen, near Oswestry.

Mr Barrow said he was proud of his time leading the authority but that his motivation had "waned in recent months".

Last month Mr Barrow apologised after an independent council investigation concluded that he had failed to declare an interest during a board meeting of council firm, IP&E – a company he was instrumental in setting up.

He was also ordered to undergo code of conduct training.

He said: "To have led the council for such a long time has been a huge challenge and an honour. As my motivation has waned in recent months however I have decided to announce with immediate effect my decision to stand down from Shropshire Council as leader and to step down as a councillor simultaneously to ensure my constituents have the opportunity to elect a new representative and the council has the leadership it needs for the challenges ahead."

Earlier this year the former leader had told his local Conservative association that he would be standing down after the next election.

He said: "In recent weeks I have reflected on my decision to plan my retirement from the council and on reflection my intention to retire means that the people of Shropshire and my constituents are not getting all they can from me in terms of leadership of the council."

"Presently the council is working on its financial strategy up until 2020 and the leader of the council should be involved in leading that project and committed to serving as leader and as a councillor for that period in my view."

Mystery over family's slides



Andrea Twigg from Chirk takes a look at one of the slides

A CHIRK woman has inherited a mystery – and is hoping the public can help her solve the puzzle.

Andrea Twigg is trying to track down a family which used to live in the Oswestry area after inheriting 200 slides with an old projector from her father.

She said: "My father died recently and he was an antiques collector. About 20 years ago he bought a projector and a box of about 200 slides. When he was ill a year ago he said he often thought about those slides, which he'd looked at, and said we should find the family that's on them."

She said: "Looking at the clothes the people in the pictures were wearing they were taken in the 1960s, and I think it's in

Pant and Llanymynech. I think they lived in Llanymynech looking at the places in the background.

"I've driven round and round the village to see if I could find the bungalow in the pictures, but I couldn't seem to find it."

The slides show family snapshots including groups of people posing outside a bungalow, people standing by a red car, a family wedding, and a number of pictures of children playing.

Mrs Twigg said she would really like to return the pictures to the family which took them, both so that the family can enjoy the images and to fulfil her father's request.

She added: "There's children on these slides and a wedding."

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All welcome

Knife attacker jailed for 16 years for attempted murder



Scott David Jones

Report by Pam Kingsley

A MAN who launched a frenzied knife attack upon his partner after she told him to leave has been jailed for 16 years.

Scott David Jones, 41, who was found guilty of attempted murder at an earlier hearing, was also made the subject of a 15-year restraining order.

Jones, of St Mary's Close, Chirk, had denied the charge and insisted that he loved the victim, but admitted wounding her with intent to cause her grievous bodily harm.

Judge Rhys Rowlands, sitting at Mold Crown Court on Monday ordered him not to approach his victim or her address, or to post anything about her on social media.

The judge said that he could not be sure that the defendant had taken the knife to the victim's flat, but he had certainly taken it from the kitchen to her bedroom where the attack took place.

"You claim to have no recollection of what you did that day, putting your memory loss down to the fact that you had been drinking," Judge Rowlands told him.

"Whether that is a genuine loss of recall, only you will know."

Jones had said in a letter to the court that he fully regretted what he had done and was disgusted with himself. He wanted the victim and her family to know how sorry he was. But the judge said that had a hollow ring to it - because he had denied the charge and was convicted at trial and his first reaction to the police was that the victim had started to self harm in front of him and he left in order to defuse the situation. In a victim impact statement the woman, who suffered three deep and potentially life-threatening stab wounds to the abdomen, said she now suffered nightmares and flashbacks and had been unable to return to her own home where the attack occurred. Jones was convicted by an 11 to one majority by the jury on November 11.

His trial had heard that the attack happened in Wrexham on May 10 this year when Jones had gone to the victim's flat drunk and, after threatening to kill the victim, he followed her to the bedroom and pulled out a large kitchen knife from inside his jacket. Mark Connor, prosecuting, said Jones told her she had better ring her daughter and smoke her last cigarette before dragging her onto the bed and stabbing her.

Duncan Bould, for Jones, told the court that, now sober, his client deeply regretted what he had done and had taken positive steps to rehabilitate himself.

Fundraising concert planned



Chris and Sue Dewhirst of St Martins, who lost their son Matthew to an undiagnosed heart condition, are staging a fundraising concert

A TEENAGER who died during a fitness training session will be remembered at a concert on what would have been his 21st birthday.

Matthew Dewhirst, 17, of St Martins, near Oswestry, was a rugby-mad music scholar at Ellesmere College when he died from sudden cardiac death in 2012.

He would be turning 21 in the new year and his friends and family have decided to remember him with a special concert.

His mum Sue Dewhirst said: "Matthew would have been 21 on January 14 and as he was a music scholar I thought it would be nice to do a birthday concert for him."

"A lot of his friends who were also music scholars are now at university and are coming back to perform, and some that are

music scholars there at the moment are going to perform as well."

Mrs Dewhirst and her husband Chris have raised thousands of pounds over the last three years after launching a fundraising and health awareness campaign, saying a simple preventative health check could have saved Matthew's life.

The campaign has raised more than £30,000 and this money is being put towards a cardiac screening programme in Shropshire and Cheshire.

The concert will be held at the Ellesmere College Arts Centre on January 16 at 7.30pm.

Tickets will cost £10 and include a welcome drink and nibbles. To book visit ellesmerecollege.tixato.com/buy

Dealership set to close down branch

A SHROPSHIRE car dealership group is set to close its branch in Oswestry.

The JT Hughes Honda and Nissan garage on Victoria Road in Oswestry will close on February 1.

It will allow the business to focus on operations at its three other sites in Shrewsbury, Telford and Newtown, according to bosses.

In a letter to customers, managing director John Hughes said the closure followed a review of the business.

He said: "Following a review of the business, JT Hughes will be making a significant change to the way it provides sales and service care for our customers."

"From February 1 the JT Hughes dealership at Oswestry will close."

"We realise this will affect people like you, who use Oswestry for new and used car sales and servicing."

"However, the business continues to grow at our other dealerships - all of which are gearing up to service our Oswestry customers' needs."

The Victoria Road site currently occupied by the dealership is to be used by a new Lidl shop, which was granted planning permission in October.

JT Hughes had originally planned to relocate to larger premises elsewhere in the town.

It is currently unknown whether staff at the dealership will be found jobs at the other sites or will face redundancy.

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Am I alone at feeling disgust at the South African court system which allowed convicted murderer Oscar Pistorious to walk out on bail this week as he awaits sentence? And I wonder if I am also alone at feeling even more disgust at the published images of him smiling joyously as he walked to freedom yet again, even though he had been found guilty of shooting his beautiful girlfriend Reeve Steenkamp through a locked toilet door. Last week the court overturned Pistorious's earlier manslaughter conviction in the case and found him guilty of murder. The double amputee, who has competed in both the Olympics and the Paralympics, had served one year of a five-year sentence for the killing, and was serving out the rest under house arrest in his uncle's home in Pretoria. That house arrest means he is free to leave the house during designated hours inside a 12 mile radius, and free to lead a comfortable lifestyle. The moment he was found guilty of murder those benefits should have been stripped away and he should have been behind bars. Pistorious openly joked with his legal team as TV cameras captured every moment of Tuesday's court hearing and although he has been electronically tagged he is set to remain free with his lawyers promising an appeal to the Constitutional Court, the country's highest, a move that could delay the case for months. There should be no bail for a convicted murderer until such a conviction is overturned. While Pistorious continues to walk relatively free and showing little of the supposed remorse he displayed in the original trial the family of Reeve Steenkamp are forced to look on. Is there no justice for them?

The dangers of irresponsibly publishing on social media sites was never more evident to me than last week when one so called "publisher" chose to announce the death of a very good friend of mine. Checking the facts never seemed to cross their minds. The facts are that, despite being unwell for some time, my friend is far from dead. In fact as they say, the news of his parting was greatly exaggerated. But much damage was caused by the totally irresponsible actions of a Facebook organisation set up to provide news and information. My friend's family were inundated with messages of sympathy and many well-wishers sent cards of condolence. The power of social media is instant and far-reaching. The results of publishing untruths can have devastating effects. There can be no excuse and let's all hope the seriousness of this error and the distress it has caused will mean people think twice before pressing the "publish" button.



Russian pilot Eustace Chulovskiy lost his life during the Second World War



Experts examine the war plane found in a Polish river after 70 years



A part from the plane which came down over Poland during the Second World War

Plane discovery brings back memories of uncle

The discovery of a war plane is of special significance to a Mid Wales man. GRAHAM BREEZE reports

IT disappeared into the mud of a river in 1945, just another fighter plane lost in the Second World War.

Now, the Soviet aircraft has re-emerged after a drought caused water levels to fall and allowed the Bzura River to reveal its dark secrets.

The discovery of the plane, believed to be a Ilyushin Il-2, might be thousands of miles from rural Mid Wales.

Profound

But it has had a profound effect on Welshpool church organist Andrew Chulovskiy.

It means he has at last been able to bury the remains of his uncle, who was on board the aircraft when it came down.

Mr Chulovskiy, the Russian-born organist at St Mary's Church, has always known that his uncle Eustace Chulovskiy was lost when his plane was shot down over Poland in 1945, but now his remains have been discovered.

As river levels in Poland fell to record lows in a prolonged drought, the Soviet fighter plane with the remains of its three crew has been found in the riverbank, and Andrew's uncle has at last been identified.

Explorers found the remnants of the Soviet fighter plane in the Bzura River, a Vistula tributary, near the village of Kamion in central Poland.

Remains of the three men on board have been removed and other pieces have been taken to a museum in nearby Wyszogród.



Welshpool church organist Andrew Chulovskiy

"My Uncle Eustace was just 22 when his fighter plane, which was on a reconnaissance flight, went missing," said 62-year-old Andrew, who lives in Newtown.

"His parents and my mother, his sister, went to their graves not knowing the whereabouts of his body."

Rest

Andrew said at last some 70 years since his disappearance, his uncle's remains could now be laid to rest.

He added: "It was a tremendous shock when the email arrived asking if I was a relative of Eustace Chulovskiy and after I confirmed I was, another message came confirming that he had at last been found."

He said it was a huge relief to know that the family had closure on the trag-

edy. He said: "My uncle's sister Lydia is alive but not well enough to make the journey from Russia but she is very relieved that at last her brother has been found."

The head of the Wyszogród museum, Zdzisław Leszczynski, said parts of Soviet uniforms, a parachute, a sheepskin coat collar, parts of boots, a pilot's TT pistol and radio equipment and a lot of heavy ammunition were found.

The inscriptions on the control panel and the radio equipment are in Cyrillic. Mr Leszczynski said witnesses saw the plane being hit while flying low in January 1945.

It crashed through the thick ice into the river.

At the time, the German army was retreating towards Berlin before the Red Army's advance.

"Until now, the water level did not

allow for the search and there was no one willing to enter this swamp," he said.

The Vistula, which flows 651 miles from the Beskidy Mountains to the Baltic Sea, was its at its lowest level since measurements started in the late 18th century.

Russian embassy spokeswoman Valeria Perzhinskaya said the discovery was important and said the crew could be identified by the numbers on the wreckage and properly buried.

Andrey, a renowned pianist, has been in the UK since 2006 when he arrived as part of the Immigration Programme for Writers, Composers and Artists and has been organist at St Mary's Church since 2009.

Fighting

About 600,000 Soviet troops were killed fighting the German army on Polish territory.

The battles on Polish territory were part of the ferocious conflict of the Eastern Front.

The battles on the Eastern Front constituted the largest military confrontation in history.

They were characterized by unprecedented ferocity, wholesale destruction, mass deportations, and immense loss of life due to combat, starvation, exposure, disease, and massacres.

The Eastern Front, as the site of nearly all extermination camps, death marches, ghettos, and the majority of pogroms, was central to the Holocaust.

Of the estimated 70 million deaths attributed to Second World War, over 30 million, many of them civilian, occurred on the Eastern Front.

The Eastern Front conflict was decisive in determining the outcome of the Second World War, eventually serving as the main reason for Germany's defeat.

It resulted in the destruction of the Third Reich, the partition of Germany for nearly half a century and the rise of the Soviet Union.

WORKING FOR YOU



Instead of my usual article, I thought it would be helpful to circulate an abridged version of my contribution to the Syria debate in the House of Commons.

I was in France and saw the stunned reaction of the French populace. There is no negotiation with those who gun down people going about their daily business and in restaurants, or those who take a bomb to a crowded football stadium. Removing Daesh, therefore, is an absolute priority. If we are invited by our severely damaged and hurt allies and neighbours, the French, to bring special technology, it is a terrible dereliction that we do not involve ourselves and offer that technology.

In the past couple of days, I have talked to some very experienced allied generals. There is no doubt whatever that having the UK playing a full part in a coalition, bringing intelligence, planning and experience, does give an intangible moral and philosophical boost to the campaign. I am clear that this is about the safety of our citizens. We are better off if we engage in this activity. The entities of Syria and Iraq were created in the 1920s out of elements of the Ottoman Empire. When the Kurds—there were about 19 million then and there are about 30 million now—emerged from the First World War, they were promised a country. They did not get one. We are living with the consequences of what was decided then.

We should follow what the current Prime Minister is doing in Iraq in talking about functioning federalism. We need to give the ethnic groups security within the old post-World War One boundaries. If we look at how the Ottomans did it, they left the locals to run their own show. There is a clear breakdown in Iraq whereby significant autonomy is provided within these entities, and this is already happening with the Kurds. My proposal is that we do not rearrange the post-World War One boundaries. We should work very closely with the locals in the Vienna negotiations, with the clear intent that at the end of the process, having removed Daesh by military means, we will have an entity that will allow local ethnic and religious groups to have real loyalty to the area where they live.

I shall support the motion tonight, but I urge the Government in the Vienna negotiations to look at how to bring in the Sunni and other local powers in order to establish a long-term solution. We have to look to the long term; there is no short-term fix. Ultimately, there will have to be an international presence to help grow these local institutions, but we must build them around the local ethnic groups."

Owen Paterson
North Shropshire MP

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Health services may not be fit for future

SO where do you want to put Shropshire's accident and emergency unit?

Future Fit, the ill-fated review which makes the Iraq War inquiry look positively speedy, was set up in 2013 to work out Shropshire's future health strategy.

Alas, it's been ensnared in a huge row over who will have the county's single A&E: Royal Shrewsbury Hospital or Princess Royal Hospital in Telford. Shrewsbury unsurprisingly wants the A&E in Shrewsbury while Telford wants it in, you guessed it, Telford.

A third place compromise was ruled out as too expensive but no final decision on

RSH vs PRH has yet been made, despite a reported Future Fit bill of £2.2 million and counting.

For now, Shrewsbury says it's the right place for locals and it also serves Wales, while Telford points to its young and growing population.

I suspect the final answer expected next summer will be Telford as bureaucrats tend to be swayed by big numbers.

But if I've learnt anything from 30 years as a journalist, it's to never underestimate random or even zany factors in deciding future action. I love the apparently true Robbie Savage anecdote when doctors were

trying to decide if the football star had concussion after being injured in a match. They used the time-honoured question: "Who's the prime minister, Robbie?" Savage, who took little interest in politics and had no idea on a good day, said he didn't know and concussion was wrongly diagnosed.

Whatever they decide, like the vast majority of readers my own experience is that Shropshire's hospitals are simply great. The problem is a lack of money. Whichever way they go, it's not Future Fit, it's Future Miserable.

BRIAN CHURCH
Shrewsbury

Getting the trains back on time is the first priority

SINCE the election of Jeremy Corbyn there has been some debate as to whether the railways should be nationalised and whether they would be better or worse if they were.

In North Shropshire we are unlucky enough to have Arriva Trains Wales and National Rail.

And, in my experience, things could not be any worse.

On October 8 I had to attend a meeting in London.

As usual, I arrived at Gobowen in plenty of time.

Unfortunately the train was late which meant that I missed my connection at Wolverhampton and was subsequently late for the meeting.

Sadly this is a very frequent experience. Earlier in the year my wife and I decided to take a break in Edinburgh.

As expected the train was late. But we were lucky because TransPenine and ScotRail were also late.

The return was easier because we took a Virgin train from Edinburgh which was on time – Virgin always is – and it did not matter about Arriva Trains Wales because they were the last in the line of connections. These are not the only occasions where Arriva Trains Wales has given me a hard time.

Nationalised or not, all I want is a train company that can manage to run its trains close to the timetable.

Is that too much to ask?
DAVE ADAMS
Oswestry

Seeking folk singing pals

I HAVE been trying to trace two friends of mine by the names of Christopher Rogers-Hughes and his wife Anne.

My very limited use of the internet suggests that they could possibly live in the Oswestry, St Martins area.

I have been trying to trace them for around seven years now but to no avail – ill health and no telephone line has not helped either.

I only ever met Chris and Annie at the Burntwood Folk Festivals, the last I believe being in 2007/8 though we did converse briefly afterwards and Chris sent me a most wonderful song of his that I sadly have mislaid.

The only information that I have is that Chris and Annie sang together as a folk duo called Red 10, writing their own songs and were well followed on the folk scene.

They released a CD in the early 2000s called Cuts Too Deep by Red 10 on the Mantra label Red 0263.

The CD label does give their phone/email/website at that time – but all are unobtainable.

If anyone can help me in tracing them I would be so grateful.

I can be contacted at: stuartroscoe123@gmail.com
STUART ROSCOE
Fleckney, Leicestershire

Passing out parade lived up to its name



The Easter passing out parade of the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion at Park Hall, Oswestry, at Easter 1966 lived up to its name – at least 25 soldiers passed out. Unable to stand the severe cold, boy after boy collapsed and had to be carried from the parade ground.

Pleased to see UK deal with Saudi was abandoned

I AM sure most readers will be as pleased as I was to see the Prime Minister pull the plug on plans for British officials to provide a £5.9 million training-needs analysis for the Saudi Arabian penal system.

That the deal was scrapped after cross-party entreaties was a significant victory for human rights.

According to Amnesty International, the Saudi kingdom is carrying out an execution every other day, often after unfair trials and evidence gained through torture. Crimes not serious enough to allow the death penalty under international law – such as drugs offences and armed robbery – can incur the death penalty in Saudi, as can crimes of adultery, apostasy, witchcraft, sorcery, and the terrorist crime of "calling for atheist thought".

Britain must not support the Saudi Arabian penal system and I'm proud Ukup's MP, Douglas Carswell, was among those who lobbied hardest to prevent this obscene deal going through.

SUZANNE EVANS
Ukup Deputy Chairman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
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Ketley,
Telford, TF1 5HU

EMAIL

letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Modest grants are available

AT the annual general meeting of the Oswestry Provident Dispensary Fund the trustees had no requests from potential beneficiaries for financial benefits.

The trustees are able to make modest grants to people living within Oswestry and District to assist people who are medically unwell and require financial assistance.

If any person thinks they may have a valid claim they may contact Richard Lloyd of GHP Legal on 01691 659194.

GHP LEGAL
Oswestry

Football's Premier League is like a parody of the EU

HAVE you noticed how the British football Premier League has become a sad parody of the European Union?

How many clubs are foreign owned, have foreign management and have a majority of foreign players?

It is money that talks here and not football, the league and its games have been sold to the highest bidder whose televised games start at a time which they dictate and are only affordable to watch by the affluent minority.

Premier League soccer is a nasty, petulant, vindictive game, controlled and guided by the giant egos of foreign managers who hog the headlines, intimidate the referees and linesmen and even their own staff.

We are told that the predicted increase in the league's revenue could give a £25k pay increase to every player in the league or, of course, seriously reduce the fans' entrance fee.

There is no mention of any monetary aid to youth teams or schools.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Teenager killed in road tragedy

A 17-year-old girl has been named as the pedestrian who died after being hit by a car on a main route near the Shropshire border.

Katie Griffith from Ruabon, was involved in the collision with a car on the A5 between Chirk and Llangollen at about 11pm on Friday last week, police said.

Her step-brother Ash Doyle posted on social networking site Facebook paying tribute to Miss Griffith.

He said: "My little step sister Katie hit by a car and killed last night, we're all devastated and heartbroken to say the least.

"You were taken from us so young. Life is cruel but they do say God only takes the best.

"Sleep tight sis."

Inspector Chris Griffiths, of North Wales Police, said: "A vehicle collided with a pedestrian which has unfortunately resulted in the death of the pedestrian. The next of kin have been informed."

Anyone with information on the collision should call 101.

Thieves strike at store in town

FRAGRANCES and medicines were stolen from a shop in Welshpool town centre.

A thief stole the items from the Saver's Store in Broad Street at 10am on December 1.

Police in the town are looking for a couple, believed to be involved, and have asked the public to help.

The man is described as 5ft 9in with dark skin and wearing a flat cap, dark jacket and jeans.

The woman was wearing a white hat with a flower on the front.

Anyone with information should call 101.

Hillfort campaigners set to stage demonstration

Report by Pam Kingsley

CAMPAIGNERS battling plans to build homes close to Oswestry's Iron Age hillfort will hold a demonstration outside Shirehall in Shrewsbury.

Members of the Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort group will greet councillors as they arrive to ratify Shropshire Council's planning blueprint SAMDev.

They have reiterated their desire to take the authority to a judicial review if plans to build 117 homes close to the hillfort are retained in the document.

They claim the proposed development, named on the document as OSW004, would breach a long-respected town boundary enclosing the scheduled hillfort.

The SAMDev plan, which governs housing development in the county up until 2026, is expected to be approved at a meeting on Thursday next week. The demonstration will take place at 9am ahead of the meeting. Neil Phillips, a member of HOOH, said: "Shropshire Council may be hoping to sign over our heritage to the bulldozer and escape the fallout during the Christmas break. But we have a prominent legal firm briefed and ready to launch a judicial review if the site remains in SAMDev."

"The Old Oswestry campaign has never been a 'nimby' or anti-housing protest. It has only ever been about the heritage. During consultation, stakeholders including Oswestry Town Council asked Shropshire Council planning officers to review housing sites in Oswestry and implement better protection for the hill fort setting, but they have refused."

Well known characters take the stage



Oswestry Musical Theatre Company's production this weekend has a whole host of interesting characters

CINDERELLA, Snow White, the Mad Hatter and Captain Hook will be taking to the stage for an unusual panto.

Once Upon a Time, performed by Oswestry Musical Theatre Company, tells the story of the daughter of Cinderella, Princess Lottie – played by Dani Box – who is about to marry the

son of Snow White, Prince Marvelous – played by Bekah Brown – and in the process banish evil from Pantoland. Naturally the baddies aren't taking this lying down. Evelyn, the wickedest of wicked witches, spirits Princess Lottie to the edge of Pantoland in the hopes that Prince Marvelous will despair and abandon his

plans to marry her. The panto runs from tomorrow (Friday) to Sunday at Marches School Theatre.

Tickets can be bought at www.ticketsource.co.uk/omtc or in Oswestry at R.J. Christian, Jewellers in Bailey Street.

For further information about show times call (01691) 657996.

Burglar of mansion had killed man, court is told

A MAN who admitted burgling a mansion near Welshpool had a few months earlier killed an antiques dealer who was tied up and beaten at his home.

Harvey Munford stole a Mercedes car, a silver £5,000 clock, jewellery, riding jackets and other property from a Grade I-listed mansion on an estate near Welshpool.

He was jailed for seven years and four months to run concurrently to his life sentence of a minimum 32 years. He pleaded guilty to burglary of the mansion and 38 similar offences in Surrey were considered.

Elen Owen, prosecuting, told Caernarfon Crown Court the mansion was burgled at night in April 2013 despite sophisticated security including CCTV cameras.

Entry had been made on to the estate through a field and CCTV footage showed two intruders in the building for a couple of hours.

When Munford was arrested his laptop computer was examined and revealed internet search terms "stately homes in Wales" and "stately homes for sale in Wales."

Munford was imprisoned for life on April 1 last year, after being convicted of the murder of jewellery designer and antiques dealer Michael Griffiths, who was tortured at his home in West Sussex.

Jonathan Page, for Munford, told Judge Michael Burr that his client would be in jail until he was about 57 or 58.

Judge Burr told Munford he had been involved in burglaries between 2006 and 2013 involving a very considerable amount of cash and property. The Mid Wales mansion had four occupants.

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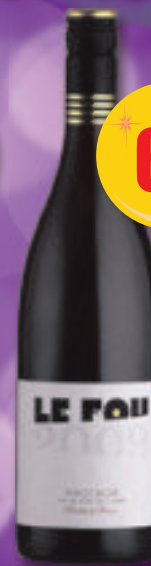
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Assessment unit service altered

CHILDREN needing treatment at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital on weekends will now see a children's doctor within A&E after the closure of a specialised assessment unit.

Under the changes, a children's doctor will support accident and emergency staff.

The move, which hospital bosses say is more "cost effective", replaces the separate children's assessment unit, or CAU, which is located in a different part of the hospital and will now close at weekends.

Sarah Bloomfield, director of nursing and quality at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, which runs RSH, said the service would be more convenient for families.

She said: "We've learnt so much from the first year of the children's assessment service at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. The needs are very different at the weekend from weekdays so it makes sense to provide the full service from within the A&E department and urgent care centre."

Milk tanker crash closes main road

THE main road between Welshpool and Shrewsbury was closed yesterday morning (Wednesday) after a milk tanker overturned.

The tanker crash caused the closure of the A458 between Buttington and Trewern near Welshpool. Crews from Welshpool and Newtown attended the scene after the alarm was raised shortly before 12.30am.

Milk leaked from the tanker as a result of the accident.

A Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue spokesman said nobody was trapped, and a heavy lifting recovery vehicle was called to get the vehicle back on its wheels.

Baby unit at hospital to remain open

A MATERNITY unit used by many families in the Oswestry area will not close, health chiefs have said.

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board has recommended that none of its maternity units should close including the one at Wrexham Maelor Hospital.

The report into women's and maternity services said that "significant strides" have been made in the safety of maternity provision in the region.

The process to close the maternity units at either Ysbyty Glan Clwyd in Bodelwyddan, Ysbyty Gwynedd in Bangor, or Wrexham Maelor was launched earlier this year.

Geoff Ryall-Harvey, chairman of North Wales Community Health Council said: "I think this is a pragmatic and sensitive solution. This is people power in action."

In its formal response to the health board's consultation the CHC said that it had concerns about the lack of independent evidence in support of the health board's proposals.

Aled Roberts, AM for North Wales, said: "Thankfully, pressure from the public and politicians has ensured that Betsi has stopped short of taking a very unpopular decision."

Young farmers' festive events

FOUR Crosses Young Farmers' Club will hold two Christmas social events over the next week.

A Christmas bingo evening will take place on Tuesday at 7.30pm.

And the club's annual Christmas whist drive will be on Thursday, also at 7.30pm.

Both events will be held at Four Crosses Village Hall and are open to all.

Gemma's move designed to bring more success

WE MEAN BUSINESS

THE Chronicle's We Mean Business campaign celebrates Oswestry's businesses. This week we celebrate Gemmipop Designs.

Gemma Bentley from Gemmipop Designs said: "I opened my stall in Oswestry Market in 2010, fresh from university where I studied Applied Art specialising in jewellery and metalwork."

"I design and make all of my products in my stall, as well as in my studio in Willow Street (above Little Vintage) where I will be permanently re-locating in January. I mostly make laser-cut acrylic jewellery, but also crochet flowers, fabric birds and cushions, as well as teaching crochet and selling craft materials. My move in the new year will mean that I can visit more craft fairs and shows, as well as focussing more on on-line sales and selling through other outlets, but also continues to give me a base in the town centre for my lovely local customers to visit. I will be joining three other fabulous businesses - Little Vintage, Pamper Treat Repeat and The Vintage Magpie - and I am thrilled to be part of such an exciting new venture in the town with other ambitious business owners. I will also continue collecting little knitted hats for the Innocent Smoothie Big Knit campaign there, to raise money for AgeUK, following five successful years of collecting at my stall."



Gemma Bentley has been supporting the Age UK Innocent Smoothie Big Knit campaign for five years

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Short walk will end programme

THE Welshpool Ramblers Group will conclude its 2015 programme with a short local walk of a few miles on Sunday.

The walk will be led by Vic and Sandra Smith. Starting at 10am from the Powis Castle car park the route will include field footpaths and canal tow-path. At the conclusion of the walk, arrangements have been made for the use of a reserved table in the National Trust Powis Castle restaurant for refreshments and lunch.

NT membership is not required to gain access to the restaurant. The NT shop will also be open which will provide an opportunity for some Christmas shopping.

Further information can be obtained on (01691) 831963.

Top honours for care company

A MID Wales care company has scooped two honours at a national awards ceremony.

Abacare has been named Britain's most outstanding care agency, while its CEO Peter Angelides was named most outstanding leader in the care sector. The honours were handed out at the UK Over 50s Housing Awards.

Mr Angelides said: "It was a real honour to walk away with the title of Britain's most outstanding care agency in the UK for a second year in a row.

"I am also absolutely thrilled to have been named the most outstanding leader in the care sector in the UK in 2015 but I couldn't have done all I do without the hard work and dedication of the team."

Public asked to have say on cost of policing

Report by Andrew Morris

RESIDENTS of Welshpool are being invited to have their say on how much they pay for their police.

Policing is funded largely by two sources – the Home Office and householders through a council tax element known as the police precept.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys, Christopher Salmon, sets the precept and would like to know what the public are happy to pay in 2016/17.

Currently, the Dyfed-Powys precept at council tax band D is £200.07.

This helps deliver a 2015/16 police budget of £93.332m. Last April saw the precept fall by five per cent. A public survey has now been launched by Mr Salmon.

He said: "I want views on what precept level the public feel is appropriate for next year. I urge householders across Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys to take part in my survey.

"We live in difficult economic times but all want to stay safe – and that means challenges for us all. Government funding for police forces continues to fall and one of my priorities here is to spend wisely."

The quickfire poll can be completed anonymously online, by email and by mail. It's available in English and Welsh. It closes at midnight on January 8. The results will be collated and the precept will be issued in February after consideration by the Police and Crime Panel, the independent body which scrutinises Mr Salmon's work.

New visitor to nursery thrills staff



The otter was spotted at the Dingle Nurseries near Welshpool

A GARDEN nursery near Welshpool had an unusual visitor – an otter playing in the pool.

It was the first time an otter has ever been seen at the Dingle Nurseries, at Frochas, Welshpool, and staff said they were delighted but surprised with the sighting.

The animal was spotted by customer Reg Turrell and captured on film when he dropped in to walk around the 200-acre garden.

Jill Rock, nursery manager, said: "One of the customers came in and said he'd been sitting by the lake and this otter popped up.

"The otter was in the lake here. It was an adult otter.

"We've never seen an otter there before. We're amazed. It was lovely. I think it's fantastic.

"There are fish in the lake – but now there may be not as many. That might be what attracted it here though.

"Someone said the otters had been seen in Newtown, but I think they're quite uncommon around here.

"None of us had ever seen one before."

Firms given warning over office waste

A RECYCLING company is warning businesses they could be putting themselves and their customers at risk of serious fraud if they don't dispose of office waste correctly.

Powys-based firm Parry and Evans said official Government crime statistics prove more needs to be done to prevent identity theft.

The National Crime Statistics showed a nine per cent increase in fraud offences across England and Wales, with one in 12 adults becoming a victim of the crime. Many frauds involve data and identity theft, and business waste can often provide rich-pickings for criminal gangs intent upon stealing and cloning identities. Parry and Evans is part of the Spartacus Alliance – a nationwide group of recycling and waste management companies.

Spartacus managing director Gary Tait said that commercial waste is often the source of identity crime, and is encouraging local companies to ensure that they don't become victims.

He said: "Data is a key business asset, and should be afforded the same level of protection as other company assets."

New ambulance times are released

MORE than 60 per cent of people with life-threatening illnesses and injuries in Mid Wales received an emergency response within eight minutes.

Figures show that in October 63.8 per cent of Category A calls made in Powys received a response in eight minutes or less.

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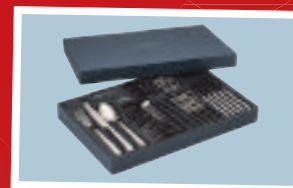
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Cash raised by mother and daughter for lung charity

A MOTHER and daughter raised more than £500 for the British Lung Foundation by hosting a breakfast morning.

Daughter Ffion Lloyd, 23, and her mother Caroline Lloyd, 52, hosted the event at Seion Chapel in Oswestry where £510 was raised in total.

Those who attended the event enjoyed breakfast, tea, coffee and orange juice with friends, as well as bringing along breakfast items of their own to share and enjoy.

The mother and daughter team had their own personal reasons for hosting the 'Big Breakfast' as they held it in memory of

Report by Naomi Penrose

Ffion's grandad and Caroline's father-in-law Arthur Lloyd, who died in 2012, after having COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).

Ffion from Park Avenue, Oswestry, said the event was a great success and was thrilled with how much money was raised for the charity.

She said: "With November being a month of lung disease awareness and because the British Lung Foundation designed the Big Breakfast events to help raise money for the charity, I wanted to host one in memory of my late dad who had COPD."

"I'm delighted that the event raised a total of £510 which I've now sent off to BLF."

"I have done a half marathon in the past and in doing so raised more than £200 but I wanted to raise money again but this time by doing something much less tiring!"

She added: "I'd like to thank my family and friends for their generosity and support, and I would also like to thank Seion Chapel for kindly letting me use the room to hold the event."

To fund out more information about the work of the British Lung Foundation or to make a donation to the charity visit: www.blf.org.uk.



Ffion Lloyd and her mum Caroline Lloyd raised money for the British Lung Foundation

Flying doctor service saves 600 from death

A FLYING doctor service with a base in Mid Wales has saved the lives of more than 600 people in its first six months.

Missions carried out by the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS) have included carrying out surgical procedures at the roadside, 21 blood and blood product transfusions and 82 emergency anaesthetics.

Figures show more than a third of emergency calls – 38 per cent – were to treat either heart attacks or patients in cardiac arrest, and one in five missions were to care for patients involved in road traffic collisions.

The EMRTS, which has a base at Welshpool Airport, sees doctors and specialists go on board air ambulances and provide treatment at the scene of an incident usually only available in hospitals.

Doctors first joined Wales Air Ambulance flights in April for the scheme – which also involves NHS Wales, the Welsh Government and the Welsh Blood Service.

As well as adding consultants to flights, the enhanced service also introduced pioneering equipment and treatments developed from armed forces emergency medical care.

This has included being among the first civilian services in Europe to carry three separate blood products, which allows the critical care team to provide blood transfusions at the scene of an emergency.

Dr Ami Jones, a lead consultant specialising in anaesthesia and intensive care medicine, said: "There have been some incredible cases where the availability of doctors at the scene of an incident has saved people's lives, and the addition of blood products has been particularly important."

Neighbourhood teams given invite

MEMBERS of the Neighbourhood Watch in Oswestry and surrounding areas are being invited to a meeting in the new year to talk to police about their concerns and issues.

The meeting will be held at Oswestry police station in the new year on a date to be fixed.

Inspector Rik Klair, the local police area commander, said he was very grateful for all the work done by Neighbourhood Watch teams to keep their communities safe from harm.

He said: "I want to invite Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators to the police station at Oswestry to thank you for all the work you do and meet you in person in order to do so. This will also be a networking opportunity for you to meet other like

minded people doing similar valuable work and have a look around the police station and share ideas.

"I am also most interested in anything we can do to help support you in coming together as frequently as you wish in the Oswestry area."

The meeting will be open to all Oswestry area Neighbourhood Watch members, including those in Llanymynech, St Martins, Morda, Ellesmere, Weston Rhyn, West Felton and Whitchurch.

Any members who would be interested in attending are asked to contact Michael Jones, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for Shropshire on www.michael.jones@westmercia.pnn.police.uk with your name and area covered.

Director steps down

A MEMBER of the board of directors at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital has stepped down after completing the maximum six years' service.

Non-executive director Richard Clarke attended his final board of directors meeting last month and formally completed his time at the hospital trust.

Mr Clarke, who served as chairman of the audit committee, had a background in local government accountancy and auditing.

He said: "It has been a fantastic six years; I don't know where the time has gone."

"There has been such a lot that happened in that time, but throughout it all the most important thing I will take away is that the organisation is full of caring people."

"I am sorry to go but I know it is the right time."

ADVERTISEMENT

AFTER TWO YEARS OF HELL, JOHN HAS GOT HIS LIFE BACK

WHEN anxiety takes hold, it can spiral out of all proportion.

That is what happened to John Simmonds, after he developed stomach pains two years ago and convinced himself he had cancer.

His wife Sally recalls: "He'd never been ill before in his life but the more tests they did, the more anxious he got. He was sure it must be serious."

John became so agitated and paranoid about his health that even when he did get the all clear from doctors, it was too late to quell his anxiety.

"It just got hold of him so that he just couldn't snap out of it," Sally said. "It was like a nervous breakdown – doctors called it a health anxiety. All the sparkle went out of him – he lost all interest in life and he'd worry about everything and anything."

"If you've ever seen a grown man crying, you'll know how bad it was. He couldn't settle. He'd wander round night

and day aimlessly, not wanting to do anything. Neither of us could sleep. He was awake, I was awake. I knew what the problem was but you couldn't get through to him – even after knowing he was safe – the anxiety had such a hold on him."

John would fret over the smallest of details; Sally recalls one morning when he insisted they get out of bed and drive immediately to Makro, in Birmingham.

"It wasn't so he could buy anything – he'd just got it in his head that his store card might run out if we didn't go. He was on such a thin line; the slightest thing would tip him over." Doctors diagnosed a 'health anxiety' and prescribed medication, which helped a little, Sally admitted, adding: "He was fine at night but during the day, he was still in a terrible state."

It was on a quick trip into Shrewsbury to buy a foot massager, last October that the couple first discovered Miruji.

"MIRUJI HAS HELPED ME LOSE 3 STONE AND I FEEL BETTER IN EVERY WAY"

Ann, 69, has lost three stone, ditched her painkillers and "got her life in order" since beginning therapy at Miruji.

The former fraud investigator from Shrewsbury, was forced to retire with agonising back pain and said she was taking eight strong painkillers just to get through each day.

She began using the Miruji chair and has not looked back. "I noticed the benefit right away," she said. "I've had a terribly bad back for most of my life. I've tried massage and various other interventions but the pain still prevailed."

She said that the Miruji winning formula of massage and powerful, motivational messages succeeded where all else had failed.

"I think it is the deep massage which really does relax the muscles and takes away stress; but it is also the audio, which is an impartial voice that reaffirms what you can do for yourself

and gives you that extra bit of a push to keep going and reap the benefits," she added.

Ann said she lost three stones "very quickly", taking herself in hand after the audio encouraged her to "get her life in order".

"I have done just that," she said. "I have sorted my paperwork, cleaned out wardrobes and cupboards and done the garden. Every aspect of my life has changed. I am fortunate to have married a very tolerant man who put up with my pain but he is so much happier now that we can do things together. I do still take some painkillers but I am in no way dependent on them as I used to be. I know Miruji may not be the ultimate solution to my back pain but it is very, very effective and extremely helpful."

"I am hooked for life. I am convinced that it should be offered on the NHS as an alternative to medical interventions, surgery and group therapies."

Sally believes the unique blend of motivational audio, combined with deep relaxation, has released her husband from his psychological prison.

"He's been following the Relax and De-stress programme and it's worked wonders. I've got him back. On the 20th December he woke up and said I feel perfectly alright."

"I have absolutely no doubt that the therapy had a very big part in his recovery. It's helped him relax and start to talk his way through things, instead of worrying. He couldn't see life at the end of the tunnel before

but now he's got things in perspective. Everything that was a problem isn't a problem now, it's a challenge."

"I can't keep him down now. He loves football and crosswords. He's got an interest in everything. After two years of hell, our children say they've got their dad back."

The couple now enjoy going to Miruji together, five times every week, on weekday mornings. Sally has managed to lose some weight with Sit and Slim and also enjoys a better night's sleep, thanks to the relaxation audio.

She has her own ideas about why the therapies work: "I think it's just a case of putting all the right messages in. It's also a bit of me time, which we all need. John also has osteoarthritis and finds the massage gives him some relief as well. We can't go to the gym like we used to do, but it massages his muscles and he finds some benefit from that. We've made sure we've told the doctors at the mental health service all about Miruji. We miss it when we can't go."

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Time to enjoy the festive season



Oswestry has been staging a series of Christmas events to pull in festive visitors



Families love getting together to enjoy the Christmas festivities

WITH the festive season now in full swing in Oswestry and Welshpool, there has never been a better time to get out and about to enjoy the area's pubs, hotels and restaurants. Thousands of people have already en-

joyed festive events such as the switching-on of the town's Christmas lights display as well as Welshpool Winter Festival and Oswestry Christmas Live and its Christmas Parade. And more people are expected to hit the

streets of Oswestry tomorrow night (Friday) when the town's first last night Christmas shopping event is held. Many shops have agreed to stay open late for the inaugural Christmas Retail Experience and there will be a variety of attraction and entertainment.

There will be a Santa's Grotto set up as well as a special Christmas Trail for younger visitors. Live music will be performed during the evening to provide a festive feelgood factor for all. And as the festive season continues, land-

lords and landladies of the area's pubs and the owners of the region's restaurants and hotels are ready to make your Christmas and New Year celebrations extra special this year. Expect a warm welcome, great food and drink and a Christmas season to remember with your loved ones.

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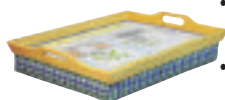
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Name of new £8 million care home is revealed

Advertisement feature
THE name of Shropshire's new £8m purpose-built care home has been revealed.

The 90-bedroom facility currently under construction on Sundorne Road, Shrewsbury, is to be known as Montgomery House.

Staff and managers at not-for-profit care provider Coverage Care Services opted for the name thanks to the position and history of the site on which it stands.

Chief executive of Coverage Care, David Coull, said: "We think the name has a certain distinguished quality about it. Not only does the building stand adjacent to Montgomery Way, it is on the site of Shrewsbury's former Territorial Army base, so a link to one of this country's most famous generals, Bernard Montgomery, or Monty, is quite appropriate."

This will be the fifth purpose-built new home the organisation has created, following on from sites in Bridgnorth, Telford, Whitchurch and Oswestry. The home is expected to be operational by the end of next year, employing around 130 people and creating new jobs. It will serve as a replacement for the ageing Crowmoor House facility, in Monkmoor. Staff and service users from there will be moving to Montgomery House.

Construction is being carried out by Castlemead Group with financial backing from RBS, both of which have successfully partnered with Coverage Care Services on previous new-build projects. Mr Coull added: "This new site is the sum of all we have learned as an organisation about delivering



Work under way on the newly named Montgomery House

high quality new homes. We're very excited that it now has a name because that's the first step in the building developing its own identity and place in the community. We're looking forward to welcoming our first residents next year."

A turf cutting was held at the start of the year, where Coverage Care board members and staff were joined to mark the occasion by representatives of residents and staff from

nearby Crowmoor House, which is operated by the Company Care but which will be replaced due to its age by the new home.

Invited guests from the care sector, the developers, Castlemead Group, architects DWA and RBS, which is providing finance for the project, were also in attendance.

Coverage Care Services operates 14 sites around the county, many of them on behalf of the local authorities.

Everything you need for the party season

Advertisement feature
BODY & Mind has got everything you need to prepare for your Christmas celebrations and the party season.

As our Christmas Gift to you, we have some amazing offers to help ease the stress on your purse strings. We have a promotion on Christmas gift vouchers – for every £30 spent we will top this up by £5.

It is hard to know what to buy people, but the gift of "time out" for a loved one or a friend can be just what is needed. All of our therapists are trained to a high standard and our clients describe us all as a smiley and welcoming team. There is something on our treatment menu for everyone.

Squeeze into that little black dress with an award-winning Shrinking Violet body wrap. This is the current top "loss leader." Some of our clients have dropped a dress size in just one wrap. It is a fabulous wrap that does not involve clay or bandages and you don't get cold.

We have a promotion on between now and Christmas to experience a lovely Dermalogica facial or lash and brow tint whilst the wrap is working its magic on those fat cells.

Pretty nails are a must between now and the New Year. We offer Shellac, Cagel and Acrylics. We have a wide range of colours and, of course, lots of glitter if that takes your fancy. We also have therapists that specialise in hand painted designs that are so popular at



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the moment – they can be as subtle or not as subtle as you dare.

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Charity delighted by level of support for Africa work

A CHARITY which supports a primary school in an African village has thanked donors for helping to raise enough funds to buy equipment for a chicken farm.

Oswestry charity Ivuusya, which sponsors the school in Ivuusya in Kenya, is currently raising money to help schoolchildren in Africa enjoy an egg for breakfast each day.

Catherine Bynon, who co-ordinates the

Report by Pam Kingsley

project, said: "We're raising money for self-help projects at the primary school, and we want to be able to raise enough to buy chicken sheds so that the school can have its own chicken farm. It costs £385 for a shed, and people have always been very generous in the past, so we think it should be quite achievable.

"If we can get this set up it means the 500 children at the school can enjoy eggs to eat in what is a very poor part of the world.

"We sent them a large donation last week, which means they've got enough for an incubator now, and we ran a raffle over the last month and, although we won't know the final total for a few days, we think we've raised about £300, which is wonderful. We've had a lot of support from all over the place, with one of the winning tickets belonging to a lady from the Wirral."

Pictures painted by Marcus Goldson of the part of Africa in which the project runs are currently being exhibited at The Dining Rooms in Oswestry.



Catherine Bynon with some of Marcus Goldson's exhibits at the The Dining Rooms in Oswestry

Views sought over future of village library

RESIDENTS in Gobowen and the surrounding area have just over a week left to give their views on proposals for their local library.

The proposals for Gobowen Library are being put forward following conversations between Shropshire Council and local residents to explore the best way to ensure the future sustainability of the library.

The council has stressed that no decisions have been made yet, and there is still an opportunity for community organisations and residents to come up with alternative options. Shropshire Council's cabinet recently voted to offload 12 of the county's smaller libraries to community groups.

Currently community groups are being sought to ensure libraries at Gobowen, Albrighton, Bayston Hill, Broseley, Cleobury Mortimer, Church Stretton, Ellesmere, Much Wenlock, Pontesbury, Shawbury, Shifnal and Wem have a future.

The management of Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Market Drayton, Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Whitchurch libraries are set to be reviewed. The proposals are intended to save £1.1 million from the authority's £2.9 million libraries budget.

People are being asked to consider and comment on various options including having Shropshire Council continue to manage the library service, staff and building at Gobowen Library in its existing location in partnership with local organisations. Another option is for the library to remain under Shropshire Council management but with reduced opening hours.

The consultation will run until December 20.

Comments can be submitted online by going to shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved and searching for Gobowen Library. Residents can also pick up a questionnaire along with the proposals at Gobowen's library, post office, the Co-op, primary school, Gobowen Pavilion and All Saints Church Hall.

Power move leads to payout claims

SURVEYORS are working on compensation claims for landowners and occupiers following a decision not to grant planning permission for four wind farms in Mid Wales.

Kathryn Lewis, a chartered surveyor with Oswestry-based Davis Meade Property Consultants, said: "In preparation for the proposed wind farms, surveys had been conducted across land in the path of the Mid Wales pylon route which would have connected the wind farms to a power station in north Shropshire.

"The surveys had been running to monitor ecology along the route and although often non intrusive were a nuisance to the farmers affected."

Ms Lewis said compensation claims will vary from

client to client, but could include claiming for damage and disturbance associated with surveys, clients' time, and damage to property as a result of the surveys.

"Landowners and occupiers who have been affected should take advice from their agents about compensation and they should remember that their agent's fees are recoverable within the claim process," she added.

If the wind farms had been given the go-ahead, National Grid would have built a 33-mile power cable from Cefn Coch to Lower Frankton near Oswestry to take the energy generated to the national network.

Campaigners said the power cable would have destroyed the tourism industry.

Awards for attractions

TWO tourist attractions have been recognised by Visit Wales through presentations of gold awards.

Chirk Castle and Erddig, near Wrexham, which between them welcome more than 250,000 visitors per year, received Gold Attractions awards for going the extra mile to create an enjoyable and memorable experience for their visitors throughout 2015.

Jamie Watson, general manager at the National Trust's Erddig Hall and Gardens, said: "Both National Trust properties Chirk Castle and Erddig Hall attract over 250,000 visitors a year and contribute significantly to the local economy through direct and indirect spend.

"We are thrilled to be awarded a Visit Wales Gold Award for delivering an outstanding and memorable experience for visitors in all aspects of the attraction."

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See In store for full details. Fuel Offer Ends 24th December

Tourist site set to grow further

FOUR chalets will be built as part of an expansion at a holiday complex. Permission has been granted for the chalets at Henlle Hall in Gobowen. Bosses say the chalets will provide three and one bedroom accommodation and it is hoped new caretaking and cleaning posts will be created.

Three units of holiday accommodation have been set up at the park in recent years as part of renovation work.

There are six two-bedroom holiday chalets in the grounds of the Grade II-listed building in a woodland area to the north of the hall.

Robert Davies, agent for owner Cosmo Lloyd, said: "A considerable investment has been made at the site, and income from the existing and new units will ensure the upkeep of the hall for future generations."

"The present chalets provide two bedroom accommodation, but feedback from visitors and holiday enquiries have indicated a growing demand for single bedroom and three bedroom facilities."

College selling festive hampers

A COLLEGE is hoping to tempt Christmas shoppers with its range of home produced hampers.

Derwen College in Gobowen has launched its annual Christmas hamper service.

The college's hampers are packed with home-grown and home-produced chutneys, jams, cakes, breads and pastries.

The hampers are available in Young's Farm Shop on the Derwen College site.

The launch of the festive hampers also saw the unveiling of the college's new branding, DC Handmade.

Anyone interested can sign up by going to www.shropshare.co.uk, clicking on the register tab and following the instructions.

Car share scheme will help meet travel needs

Report by Sue Austin

PEOPLE living in villages near Oswestry are getting together to car share in a new scheme backed by lottery money.

The Three Parishes Big Local partnership has linked up with Shropshire to develop and promote a car share scheme tailored for people in the three villages of Gobowen, Weston Rhyn and St Martins.

Signs have now been put up advertising the scheme, which is already up and running in areas like Telford and is free to join and use for individuals and organisations alike.

Three Parishes Big Local says it is promoting the Shropshare car share scheme as part of its wider range of transport solutions that are being developed for its Community Plan.

Big Local coordinator Bridget Laraway, said: "The concept of car sharing is really simple - sharing a car with people who live near you and travel to similar places at similar times."

"Car sharing allows you to keep all of the convenience of using the car but sharing with just one person immediately halves the cost of fuel and parking, reduces your carbon footprint and makes travelling much more sociable."

"For the residents of the Three Parishes Big Local area, a car sharing scheme can also provide easier access to employment areas that are difficult to reach by public transport."

Anyone interested can sign up by going to www.shropshare.co.uk, clicking on the register tab and following the instructions.

New tribute to war poet unveiled



Actor and Harry Potter star Jason Isaacs unveils the new tribute to war poet Wilfred Owen

HARRY Potter star Jason Isaacs has unveiled a new tribute to Oswestry war poet Wilfred Owen at the site of the former hospital where he was treated for shell shock.

Oswestry-born Owen was sent to the Craiglockhart War Hospital in Edinburgh, where he met fellow war poet Siegfried Sassoon in

August 1917. The site is now part of Edinburgh Napier University's Craiglockhart campus, with the university already having a permanent exhibition to mark the work of the war poets.

A Caithness flagstone bearing a quote from the poet "My subject is war and the pity of war. The po-

etry is in the pity" was unveiled by Isaacs, who is in Scotland with Theatre of War company, which produces ancient Greek tragedies for service members, veterans and their families.

Owen was killed in the final week of the First World War, gunned down by German machine guns.

Firm claims second place in UK-wide competition

A CHEESE packing site has been named runner-up in a national award. Arla in Oswestry came second in the Department of Work and Pension's Feeding Britain's Future Employers Award after hosting a full-day workshop as part of Skills for Work Month.

The company beat off competition from more than 100 other businesses from across the UK.

Tammy Huxley, from Arla, said: "The process helped to show us as an attractive employer in the local area. The advice we gave out on the day was not just for our benefit but was also for the participants, as we were on hand to give advice on CVs and interview techniques."

"We have taken on four of the attendees following the session and were nominated for the award by Oswestry Jobcentre following a day of fun recruitment-style challenges, as well as CV and interview coaching, and a full factory tour."

The company worked with the local Jobcentre and screened several potential candidates before inviting 12 to spend the day on site. Subsequently, six were invited back for interviews and four have now been given three-month contracts with a view to making them permanent contracts.

Ms Huxley said: "The key element is that the four newest additions to our team would not have previously considered applying for a manufacturing role."

"A great deal of time and effort went into making the day a success but it was absolutely worth it. We set out to showcase Arla in the local community, and help develop a relationship with the local Jobcentre which can only be a benefit in the future."

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Christmas Homes

A four-page supplement featuring top tips for the festive season



Style tips to help you dream of a white Christmas

NEVER mind decking the halls – it's all about the Christmas tree, isn't it?

Whether you favour a 'can-you-believe-it's-not-real?' artificial one or always opt for

the genuine article, whose fragrant scent (and needles) will fill the house, it's the decorations that say most about your taste and family history - from hand-me-down baubles to childhood creations.

"This year, people seem determined to

want their tree to be the biggest they can fit in and afford, and they also have a very good idea of what colour or style theme they want to follow," says Craig Roman, home and garden styling expert at Dobbies Garden Centres. "They're very specific about

the look they want to achieve, and we have three key looks this year – full-on traditional, with lots of red and gold; a countryside feel, featuring creatures great and small; or the dazzling snowy white tree, embellished with silver or gold touches."

The picture above captures the atmosphere of a winter wood where snow-laden trees sparkle and shimmer in the light. There are plenty more winter property tips inside our Christmas Homes feature. Whichever look you choose, make it tree-mendous...

Underfloor systems are a hot hit

Advertising Feature

UNDERFLOOR heating systems have become a popular addition to many homes because they produce an even, consistent room temperature, as well as a toasty floor.

Wet underfloor heating works by circulating warm water through a series of pipes under the floor, connected to a boiler or other heat source – usually a heat pump.

The pipes don't have to be laid in concrete. With some wet underfloor heating systems, the installer can lift up the existing floor covering, fit the heating panels, lay plywood on top and replace the floor covering.

Most types of floor covering are suitable for underfloor heating, including carpet, tiles, vinyl, laminate and engineered wood.

You should check with the manufacturer if in doubt.

Efficient

Lots of homes have underfloor heating in some rooms and radiators in others, but underfloor heating is more energy efficient.

It works at a lower temperature to radiators, yet delivers the same level of comfort, saving you money because the boiler doesn't have to work as hard and so uses less energy.

A radiator heats the air immediately above it, with the heat rising and then falling in a circular motion as it cools, whereas an underfloor system heats the entire room from the floor up.

This reduces the constant air circulation caused by radiators, which creates draughts and distributes dust.

If your home has a ground, air or water source heat pump, or you're considering installing one, this is the perfect partner for underfloor heating.

Heat pumps work at their most efficient at low-water-output temperatures, so having a low-temperature heat emitter, such as under-



The overlay system for underfloor heating



An engineer connects underfloor heating



Underfloor heating has become very popular

floor heating, is ideal. Both heat pumps and boilers can heat water to the lowest temperature required for underfloor heating, but heat pumps do it more efficiently than boilers.

As wet underfloor heating systems are connected to your home's boiler or heat pump, they can be cheaper to run than electric versions.

They also come with room (or zone) controls, so you can have some rooms (or zones, such as the ground floor) hotter than others, again, potentially saving you money.

Another advantage of underfloor heating is that its space saving.

Some rooms have little free wall space for radiators, but this clearly isn't a problem if the heatings under the floor.

It is, of course, important to get your underfloor heating from a reputable supplier.

Some manufacturers guarantee their heating pipes for up to 50 years – and to use a plumber or heating engineer with experience of fitting systems like yours.

While prices vary from system to system and home to home, wet underfloor heating for a three-bedroom house costs around £2,100 to £2,600, according to Ask for Underfloor.

See www.askforunderfloor.org.uk for more

information. If you need new radiators this winter, check out Acova Volcanic column radiators.

Screwfix has a big range of different lengths and depths (two, three or four columns deep, costing from £161.49).

Volcanic is the colour – it looks black in pictures but is actually a gorgeous dark grey, with a fashionable matt finish.

These radiators are a fantastic update on traditional column radiators and have great heat output and retention.

The two-column ones are ideal in hallways and bedrooms where you need a slimline rad,

while the three and four-column designs are lovely if you have more space.

These Volcanic radiators are super stylish and brilliant value compared to many other coloured rads.

The paint on column radiators can get chipped, especially if you're doing building work, but it isn't hard to fix.

Fill the chips with a little wood filler, sand carefully when set and clean off, then touch up with a matching metal paint.

Use radiator paint on white radiators because it shouldn't yellow with the heat, unlike normal white metal paint.

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Source: ABC

Christmas house-hunting on rise

THE trend for house hunting between Christmas and New Year is on the up as technology gifts and having more spare time during holidays influence people's buying habits.

Analysis of website visitors by Redrow Homes, currently building across Shropshire, Staffordshire and the West Midlands, found a surge in traffic during the festive break each year for the last three years. Average daily web traffic for the homebuilder during 'Twixmas' week 2014 was 63 per cent ahead of the rest of the year.

And the number of Twixmas house hunters last year was up 19 per cent, compared to the same period in 2013, while daily web visitors were only up an average of four per cent for other days of the year – evidence that the trend is rising faster than the market.

Growth

Dave Bexon, Group sales and marketing director for Redrow Homes, said: "The trend for Twixmas house hunting is steadily increasing. It coincides with the growth in use of tablet and mobile devices, which enable people to browse the internet wherever they are.

"As many people receive new technology as gifts, and take time off work between Christmas and New Year, we are seeing a significant upturn in our online visitors and are expecting that to be even more pronounced this year.

"The period also precedes January, traditionally one of the most popular months of the year to find a new home as people look to make a fresh start.

"Research shows that 80 per cent of homebuyers start their property search online, using the internet to narrow down properties that fit their search criteria.

"So it's no surprise people are already starting to do their research from December 26 before they undertake their first viewings in the New Year."



House hunting during 'Twixmas' – between Christmas and New Year – is on the up as technology gifts influence people's buying habits

fore they undertake their first viewings in the New Year."

Last year Redrow.co.uk received almost 1.4 million visits in total, including 36,630 in the week after Christmas (December 26, 2014 to January 1, 2015).

The company has seen a significant jump in the proportion of web sessions accessed via mobile and tablet devices rather than desktop in the past three years, with mobile and tablet sessions for 2015 so far at 60 per cent of all user sessions compared to 52 per cent in

2014 and just 43 per cent in 2013. Dave added: "We can certainly make the most of the increased number of web users by ensuring we communicate with our customers during this time and provide them with everything they need to know.

"Our website features image galleries and property films, so homebuyers can effectively tour our properties wherever they are. That's in addition to in-depth facts about each development – location, local amenities, access to transport – and plenty of information about our property styles and layouts."

According to Home.co.uk, the rapid growth of the internet over the last 10 years has changed the way people buy and sell residential property.

In the UK around 80 per cent of house hunters now use the web to start their search for property.

According to traffic statistics expert Hitwise, around one per cent of all internet traffic in the UK is property-related and the top four property portals entertain 16+ million user sessions per month.

Redrow continues to innovate in its use of digital marketing and the company also harnesses the power of the internet to enhance the homebuying process.

Support

My Redrow, the developer's direct internet channel to customers, has also gone from strength to strength. It continues to lead the way in the housebuilding industry, providing customers with support from their initial search to moving into their new Redrow home.

It also enables them to personalise their home by choosing from an extensive range of extras and upgrades for their home, which can all be ordered online.

Redrow's current developments in Shropshire include Trenchwood Gardens, Telford; Aston Fields, Shifnal; plus The Coppice and Abode in Leegomery.

In Staffordshire, the company is building at Pennine Grange, Tamworth; while elsewhere in the West Midlands, the homebuilder has developments including Compton Park in Wolverhampton and Chestnut Walk in Bilston.

For more information on the homes Redrow is building visit www.redrow.co.uk

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Renewing your stairs can make a huge difference to the look and feel of your hallway

Staircase not such a big step

TWAS the lead up to Christmas ... cue frantic shopping, festive baking and, for those of us inundated with visitors, last-minute home improvements.

A new sofa bed for the spare room, a lick of paint in the living room and a bigger, sturdier table for the dining room may all be on the cards.

However, there is one area of the home that is used the most around the festive period, the hallway, and giving it a new lease of life is a lot easier than you think.

Presents

The 'pop-rounders' will be out on force, dropping presents off for the kids or hand delivering cards.

Many of these visitors rarely get past the entrance so your hallway will be on display to a variety of friends, acquaintances, neighbours and carol singers, making it an important priority if you are considering carrying out any home improvement projects this season.

If your hallway is looking less than wonderful at this time of year then there is one simple way to add a bit of Christmas sparkle: upgrade your stairposts.

This may seem like a Christmas wish, rather than an achievable project, but renewing your stairs is actually a much quicker and more hassle-free process than you might think.

Louise Morris, group brand and communications manager for renovations firm Richard Burbidge, says: "It is more than achievable to renew your balustrade before Christmas."

"There is a perception that it is a large, unyielding task, but that couldn't be further from the truth."

"In most cases, new stairposts can be installed in a day, especially if you select a range with pre-cut spindles and pre-drilled hand and baserails, such as the Fusion, Immix or Elements range from Richard Burbidge."

"The difference that a new bal-

ustrade can make to your hallway is incredible, and by choosing black iron spindles or glass panels you can create a stylish focal point, making your stairs really sparkle this Christmas."

Finally, ensure you bring decorative flair to your hallway to create a proper yuletide welcome.

For a rustic, homely feel, natural greenery is a wonderful way to bring the outside inside and introduce seasonal scents, particularly if you add cinnamon sticks, pine cones and oranges to the mix.

Fabulously

A matching wreath hung in the hall will finish the festive look fabulously.

Chester-based Richard Burbidge is a manufacturer and supplier of stairposts, decking and decorative mouldings.

To find out just how easy it is to update your stairs in time for Christmas, or for style tips and inspiration, visit www.richardburbidge.co.uk

Create a perfect space with an Arboreta room

By Mary Queally

WHETHER you opt for a garden room, kitchen, conservatory, annexe or orangery, adding a bespoke, oak-frame Arboreta extension to your property will allow you to create a space that's totally unique to you and your family.

Using a combination of traditional and cutting-edge building techniques, Arboreta specialises in designing and building oak-frame structures that are created to beautifully complement both contemporary and traditional homes as well as their surrounding areas.

Each design is bespoke and tailored to every individual customer to ensure that your new extension perfectly meets all your needs.

While some people are looking for an extra sitting or living room that allows them to make the most of their garden whatever the weather, others are keen to use their new space as an open-plan kitchen or dining area, which is perfect for those that like to entertain.

Some Arboreta customers have used their new extension as a playroom for their children, ideal for keeping toys all in one place, or even a games room for themselves, while others have created gyms, studios and artist studios.

Contemporary

Joanne Hodges, Arboreta's marketing manager, said: "Regardless of whether you're looking to create a peaceful, relaxing sitting room, a bustling family kitchen or even somewhere for you to enjoy your hobbies, we can create a bespoke, oak-frame design that will perfectly complement your lifestyle."

"At Arboreta we pride ourselves on our approach, combining traditional craftsmanship and contemporary engineering."

"So, whether you choose an oak-framed orangery; a garden room with internal oak features, or a tiled roof orangery, our designers and craftsmen will ensure your oak frame addition will be in keeping with your existing building."

"To illustrate this, we have produced a series of videos showcasing some of our actual completed build projects and would like to invite you to visit our website and hear real testimonials from our clients."

Arboreta is an oak frame design and manufacturing company specialising in garden rooms, orangeries, annexes



This spacious conservatory living area combines traditional craftsmanship and contemporary engineering



Dine in style and make the most of your garden whatever the weather



This Arboreta study area is ideal if you work from home



The natural beauty of the oak shines through



Each design is bespoke and handcrafted in the UK

and outbuildings with over 20 years' experience in the business. Each design is bespoke and exclusively designed and handcrafted in the UK.

Arboreta uses 'QPI' grade oak from carefully managed European woodlands, has been endorsed by BM TRADA and is a partner of the Wildlife Trust.

Joanne said: "Our craftsmen take advantage of oak's outstanding natu-

ral qualities by using traditional methods developed over many generations which we combine with contemporary engineering techniques to create our oak frames to precise degrees of accuracy. The result is a structure which, though built for modern life, allows the centuries of know-how that have gone into its creation and the natural beauty of oak to shine through."

The Arboreta team is based at Welsh

Oak Frame in Caersws in Wales and commissions projects across the UK.

Prices are as follows: Garden rooms from £30,000, orangeries from £35,000 and conservatories from £25,000. Please note - these prices do not include the full building costs.

For further information on Arboreta contact 0800 288 8333, email info@arboreta-oak.com, or visit www.arboreta-oak.com

↑Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

23
Oswestry & Border Chronicle
Thursday, December 10, 2015



Stunning family property sits on the edge of village

The Chase at Trefonen near Oswestry is a spacious modern family home on the edge of the village. Built in 1999 by the current owner, it is a timber framed property offering 4,136 sq ft of accommodation with an outlook over the stream to the adjoining fields. It is on the market with a guide price of £750,000.

For further information contact Balfours on 01743 353511 or visit www.balfours.co.uk

Executive home for sale with no chain

Being close to good village facilities, including main line rail services, a mini supermarket, post office, pub and golf course, 2 Bryn Y Castell Gardens, St Martins Road, Gobowen is a modern detached home ideal for family living.

It is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £249,999 or nearest offer with no chain.

It has a porch, a reception hall with laminate

flooring, a ground floor WC, a kitchen with granite worktops, an integrated oven and four burner hob and ceramic floor tiling, a utility room with ceramic floor tiling and a door to the rear garden. There is also a brick fireplace with a remote controlled gas stove and a carpet, a dining room with sliding glazed doors to a conservatory with ceramic floor tiling, master bedroom en-suite, three

further bedrooms and a bathroom. Outside, the property occupies a corner plot which backs onto open fields. It has a wide tarmac-adam driveway with a parking area. There is a single integral garage with a remote controlled door and a good sized private rear garden principally laid to lawn. For further information contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 or visit www.jjdell.co.uk



Home is in walking distance of the town centre's facilities

An attractive Victorian mid terraced house, 19 Lloyd Street in Oswestry is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £100,000. The property is located within walking distance of the town's shopping centre. The home benefits from gas fired central heating and PVC double glazing. Accommodation comprises an entrance hall, a sitting room, a living room and a kitchen. There are also two bedrooms and a bathroom and the property benefits from front and rear gardens. For more information contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



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Spacious detached home has great views

A spacious four-double bedroomed modern detached family house, The Firlands, 2 Withy Avenue, Forden, Welshpool is tastefully presented and well appointed throughout. In a premier area of a popular village and having been greatly improved by the current owners, it is for sale through Norman Lloyd at £285,000. With a private gated driveway with gardens to the front and rear with views towards the Long Mountain countryside and Red Woods, the Offa's Dyke footpath is also close at hand.

For further information contact Norman Lloyd on 01938 552371 or visit www.normanlloyd.co.uk

norman lloyd



Property is attractive three period story home

The Mill House at Felindre, Berriew, comprises a most attractive, period three storey house. It is on the market through Halls at £225,000. The property benefits from double glazing or secondary double glazing to all windows and loft insulation. The accommodation is interesting and well laid out on three floors. There are attractive views over the surrounding countryside. The Mill House is situated close to the highly popular village of Berriew, which in turn is situated approximately five miles from the popular market town of Welshpool. Contact Halls on 01938 555552 for more details.

Halls 1845

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Croesaubach Oswestry £450,000

- Spacious 3 Bedroom Detached Cottage/Smallholding
- With Outbuildings, Stables, Field Shelters and 10.75 Acres
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Oil Central Heating
- Double Garage & Ample Parking
- EPC Rating F



Church Lane St Martins £174,995

- NO CHAIN
- A spacious 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- The property is in need of modernisation throughout
- Electric heating and timber D/G
- EPC Rating D



Henley Drive Oswestry £171,000

- Immaculate 3 Bed Detached Property
- Entrance Hall, Cloaks, Lounge
- Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility
- 3 Beds (master en-suite) & Family Bathroom
- Well stocked and established gardens
- Off-road parking with potential for garage
- uPVC D/G, gas central heating, EPC Rating C



Park Street Oswestry £267,500

- Spacious and well presented 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Situated on a generous corner plot in a popular residential area
- Entrance Hall, Family Room/Study, Dining Room, Lounge
- Kitchen, Utility, 4 Bedrooms (master en-suite) & Family Bathroom
- Private off road parking, single detached garage
- Well maintained front and rear gardens.
- Gas central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating D



Celyn House Weston Rhyn £324,950

- Substantial Detached 5 Bedroom Property
- 3 Reception Rms, Dining Rm, Kitchen, Utility, Cellar
- Ground Fir Bathroom, 5 Beds (2 en-suite) & Family Bathrm
- Mature & well maintained gardens & off-road parking
- Oil C/H & hardwood D/G. EPC Rating G



Pentre Shrewsbury £200,000

- A superbly presented and spacious 2 Bedroom Detached House
- Situated approximately 2 miles from the popular village of Nesscliffe
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Cloakroom/WC
- Large Kitchen/Breakfast Room, 2 Double Bedrooms (en-suites)
- Large garden provides parking for several vehicles or caravan
- Double glazing and oil fired central heating. EPC Rating C
- NO CHAIN



Cae Gwynn Close Morda £190,000

- Superbly appointed 4 Bedroom Detached House
- The property has been maintained to the highest of standard
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen
- Utility, Cloakroom, Conservatory
- 4 Bedrooms (master en-suite) and Family Bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden with patio, Driveway parking and garage
- Gas fired central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating C



Old Chirk Road Gobowen £189,995

- A well positioned 4 Bedroom Detached Family Property
- Entrance Lobby, Entrance Hall/Study, Lounge,
- Living Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Dining Room
- Utility, Ground Floor Bathroom, 4 Bedrooms & Bathroom
- Good size gardens and large parking area to the rear
- uPVC double glazing and Gas C/H (where stated)
- EPC Rating F



Croeswylan Crescent Oswestry £149,995

- 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow
- The property stands within generous and private gardens
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, open plan Kitchen/Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms, Wet Room and large garage
- UPVC D/G, gas C/H. EPC Rating D



Churchfields St Martins £129,995

- A spacious 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- The property was constructed approx 10 years ago
- Ent Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Utility, Cloaks, 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Drive & garage with good size rear garden
- Gas C/H and D/G. EPC Rating C



Y Berllan Llangedwyn £169,995

- A spacious 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- In an elevated position with views over and across the Tanat Valley
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room
- Garden Room, 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Front and side gardens including large gravelled driveway and single garage.
- Oil central heating and double glazing are installed throughout. EPC rating



The Meads Weston Rhyn £114,995

- A spacious 3 Bedroom End-of-Terrace House
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, large Conservatory
- Kitchen/Dining Room, 3 Beds and Shower Room
- Good size rear garden, driveway & garage
- Gas central heating, uPVC double glazing
- EPC Rating D

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- Attractive Detached Bungalow
- Walking Distance Of Village Facilities
- GFCH & UPVC DG
- Entrance Hall
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage & Parking
- South Facing Rear Garden
- EPC Band - D

JJD894

OFFERS IN REGION OF £152,000

LLANMYNECH



- Three Bed. Semi-Det. House
- GFCH & UPVC D/G
- Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- En-Suite And Bathroom
- Parking
- Rear Garden And Patio
- Walking Distance Of Village Amenities
- EPC Band - C

JJD862

OFFERS ON £134,500

ST. MARTINS



- Detached House
- Occupying Pleasant Rural Position
- Opportunity for further improvement
- GFCH
- D/G & Secondary D/G
- Sitting Room & Living Room
- Dining Kitchen
- 3 Good Sized Bedrooms
- Garaging
- Good Sized Garden
- EPC Band D

JJD805

GUIDE PRICE £210,000

GOBOWEN



- Close Care Residential Bungalow
- Attractive Purpose Built Complex
- CH and DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- UPVC Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms
- Garage
- Rear Enclosed Paved Yard
- Short Walking Distance To Day Room
- EPC Band - D

JJD866

£104,950

WHITTINGTON



- Four Bed. Edwardian House
- Exceptionally Well Appointed
- GFCH & UPVC DG
- Cloakroom
- Three Reception
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Sewing Room
- Good Sized Garden
- Garaging & Driveway
- EPC Band - D

JJD854

£269,950

OSWESTRY



- Victorian End Terrace House
- GFCH
- Two Reception Rooms
- Dining Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms And Loft Room
- Modern Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Walking Distance Of Town & Woodside School
- EPC Band - E

JJD853

OFFERS OVER £124,950

CHIRK



- Investment Property
- Providing Income Of 5475 pcm
- Two Bed. Modern House
- GFCH & DG
- Lounge & Dining Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Parking
- Quiet Cul De Sac Location
- Attractive Garden
- Open Rear Aspect
- EPC Band - D

JJD871

£119,950

MORDA



- Well Appointed Four Bed. Dormer Bungalow
- GFCH & D/Glazing
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom & Cloakroom
- Study
- Garage & Parking
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Occupying Quiet Village Position
- EPC Band - D

JJD843

OFFERS AROUND £184,950

DEVELOPMENT SITE - HENGOED



- Site Extending To 0.8 Acres
- Property Occupied By Repairs Garage
- OPP For Four Executive Dwellings
- Outskirts Of Village Location
- Open Views Across Surrounding Countryside
- We understand Mains Electricity And Water Available

JJD893

£445,000

CHURCH STREET, OSWESTRY



- Prime Commercial Retail Shop Unit With First And Second Floor Accommodation
- Occupying busy trading position
- Overall shop frontage - 19'
- Internal Width (Max) - 16'2"
- Internal Depth (Max) - 74'
- Side Entrance
- Toilet
- Cellarage
- Two Rear Store Rooms
- THE GROUND FLOOR SHOP IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR RENT AT £15,000 PER ANNUM
- EPC Band - D

JJD890

FOR SALE £150,000

ST. MARTINS - THREE PLOTS



- Three Good Sized Building Plots
- Suitable For An Executive House
- O.P.P. For Single Dwelling
- Semi-Rural Location
- Close To Village Facilities
- South Facing Aspect Towards Shropshire Union Canal
- All Mains Services Available

JJD867

PLOTS 1 & 2 £110,000. PLOT 3 £115,000

RUYTON XI TOWNS - TO LET



- Attractive Village Cottage
- GFCH
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Car Parking Available
- Convenient For Oswestry & Shrewsbury
- EPC Band - E
- Rent - £550 pcm
- Deposit - £500
- Agreement Cost £150

JJD074

OSWESTRY (01691) 653437 - (01691) 680212





CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094



Many people in the parade wore costumes



Biblical figures Mary and Joseph took part in the big parade



Father Christmas was a welcome visitor to the big parade



People lined the streets to watch the Oswestry Christmas parade go by on Saturday. Photos: Peter Shah.

Parade proves to be a huge hit

THOUSANDS of people lined the streets of Oswestry to enjoy the sights and sounds of its traditional Christmas parade.

Almost 50 floats took part in the annual parade on Saturday, with organisers hailing it as one of the best yet.

Jonathan Jones, of Oswestry's Borderland Rotary Club, which organises the event, said 47 groups had floats.

He said: "It is great event and once again has drawn a large number of people to what is one of the few parades of this kind in the country."

"We get people coming from Wrexham and even further afield travelling to see it, which benefits the town because those extra visitors bring in more trade."

"I spoke to a coffee shop owner last week about the parade and he said that it is their busiest day of the year."

The Borderland Rotary Club took over the event from the Round Table in 2005 and Mr Jones said that interest in the parade was now as high as it has ever been.

He said: "It was great to see so many groups

Report by Pam Kingsley

parading and this gives them all the chance to advertise what they do and perhaps interest others in joining them." The parade not only brings more people into Oswestry, it also helps to raise money for charities and deserving causes, Mr Jones said. He added: "The money we raise will be donated to three charities, the Oswestry Food Bank, the Stroke Club and Oswestry Community Support Group."

Organise

"As ever with events like this it takes a great many people to organise it and make it all happen."

"We are so very grateful for all the companies that loaned the vehicles for use on the day, and also to the cattle auction market for letting us use their space to assemble all the floats before the parade started."

Many groups, organisations and businesses from the Oswestry area and beyond took part in the parade.

While many floats were on the back of lorries, the celebration also had many walking floats.



The Lions Club of Oswestry had a float in the parade



MD Warriors took part in the fun



The festive parade had plenty of colourful costumes once again



CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094



Scott Vernon from Wonderful Cheese at Oswestry Christmas Live



Families enjoyed all the attractions of Oswestry Christmas Live



Brenda Wood and Judith Hope at Welshpool Winter Festival

Festive fun for all

Report by Pam Kingsley

THE town centres of Oswestry and Welshpool were transformed into festive wonderlands as thousands of people turned out to enjoy Christmas attractions.

Oswestry's Christmas Live event, run by the town council, featured a host of entertainment including an ice rink, live music and a variety of festive stalls. Visitors were particularly delighted to see a new waving Santa illumination.

The Bring Back Waving Santa group was supported by more than 1,400 people on Facebook after a large illumination of Father Christmas which had been hung in Willow Street for many years was retired due to electrical issues.

Following the campaign, Oswestry Town Council and its lighting supplier were able to restore a new Santa to his traditional home, prompting Facebook group founder Lee Barnfield to suggest a change of direction for the group.

Mr Barnfield said: "As a sign of our thanks for the return of the Oswestry icon that is waving Santa I think we could show our support by donating to The Rotary Club of Oswestry."

Meanwhile the festive season began in earnest in Welshpool at the weekend. The Christmas lights were turned on during a celebration on Friday night. Welshpool Winter Festival was held on Saturday.

Town Clerk Robert Robinson said: "I think the Winter Festival has become an integral part of the calendar and would be greatly missed if it didn't happen."

He said the event had been a big success though strong winds has presented a problem for some stallholders.

He said: "One trader had to pack up and go home when high winds got hold of his stall as he was setting it up and carried it away down the street."



Sophie Bradley with Ernie from Montgomeryshire Greyhound Rescue at the winter festival



Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust's Sandy Scott at Welshpool Winter Festival



An ice rink was one of the many Oswestry Christmas Live attractions



A new waving Santa greeted visitors to Oswestry



There were plenty of attractions at Welshpool Winter Festival



CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094

Cinema listings

THE NIGHT BEFORE (15)



Headache on way – 6/10
Santa Claus (Tracy Morgan) narrates the sorry tale of Ethan Miller, Isaac Greenberg and Chris Roberts who decide to have their last Christmas Eve together by attending the most exclusive party in New York, armed with pot procured from avuncular local dealer Mr Green. The Night Before has some amusing moments, but gags fall horribly flat more often than they hit their target.

THE GOOD DINOSAUR (PG)



Dino delight – 8/10
Young apatosaurus Arlo tumbles into a raging river and is swept far away from his loved ones. Lost in the wilderness, Arlo meets a cave boy called Spot (Jack Bright), who becomes his protector. Beast and human embark on a magical adventure of self-discovery, bound for Arlo's home in the shadow of the Clawed-Tooth Mountains.

BRIDGE OF SPIES (12A)



I spy a winner – 8/10
Steven Spielberg's Bridge of Spies is a slow-burning tale of intrigue and bluff that takes its time establishing lawyer James B. Donovan (Tom Hanks) as the potential saviour of not one but three lives as plays east against west as he leads negotiations with the Stasi for the return of two captured Americans.

CAROL (15)



A gift – 10/10
Therese Belivet has a humdrum life working in the toy section of Frankenberg's department store. When Carol Aird (Cate Blanchett) sashays into the store looking for a Christmas present a passionate relationship is kindled leading to Carol's estranged husband Harge seeking sole custody of their daughter Rindy. Carol is a triumph, anchored by Blanchett's flawless display.

Performers entertain

Report by Pam Kingsley

high winds meant the original event had to be postponed.

The River of Light mid-winter celebration will now be held at Lake Vyrnwy reservoir on December 22. Members of the public are invited to help create a 'river' of 1,000 tea lights under the backdrop of the Vyrnwy dam. Visitors will also see an animation celebrating the migration of the salmon by Sean Harris from Wild Boar Press. The animation was created for the Leaping Lights festival and lantern parade this October in Newtown. The Severn Rivers Trust and RSPB are working with Wild Boar Press and PaBoom to create the spectacle with funding from the Arts Council of Wales and the Big Lottery. The event will run from 4pm to 6pm.

Meanwhile a 16th century house in Welshpool will be opening its doors on Sunday in aid of Marie Curie. Decorated for the festive season, No1 Church Bank will be open between 4pm and 8pm. Mulled wine and mince pies fresh from the oven are included in the admission price of £5, and all money raised will go to the charity.

And a candlelit carol service and nativity will be held at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Oswestry on Sunday at 5pm. Weather permitting, the service will start at 5pm outside the church, on the corner of Lower Brook Street and Roff Street, before a break for hot chocolate, mulled fruit juice and mince pies. The service will then continue inside the church for carol singing and Christmas readings and stories. If the weather is bad the whole service will be held inside. All are welcome.



Bellan House's Annie Squire, Josh Counter and Wangi Oi performed

Book reviews

BIG NATE SUPER SCRIBBLER

By Lincoln Pierce
Published by HarperCollins
Draw, laugh, doodle, rhyme – this action-packed new book has plenty to keep children aged nine and above entertained for hours with page after page of interactive activities. The first page invites young readers to write their name and from then on it's a feast of crazy comics, cheezy doodles and epic laughs which are sure to be a hit. All you need is a pen and your imagination as main character Big Nate, who is a champion cartoonist, and definitely NOT the teacher's pet, sets the



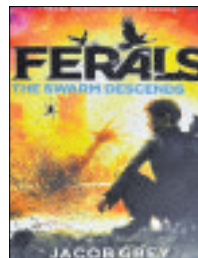
reader a series of challenges, from listing the 15 weirdest talents you know of, to creating new names for some jazzy dance moves. There's plenty of space for doodles, answers and ideas.

By Liz Gray

FERALS: THE SWARM DESCENDS

By Jacob Grey
Published by Harper Children's Books

Any junior reader who enjoys exciting adventure stories will delight in the author's second book about Caw, a boy who has finally banished the Spinning Man to the Land of the Dead after an unforgettable struggle between the good and evil Ferals. Sadly there's a new villain in Blackstone determined to bring chaos with her evil ways. Caw must gather his courage and as many of his friends as he can to battle against Mother of Flies and her nasty cohort of Ferals but, with dark secrets



at every turn and terror round every corner, he has to learn very quickly who he can trust. All children like a scary story in which good triumphs over evil and this one is no exception.

By Sally Bunn

KATHERINE CARLYLE

By Rupert Thomson
Published by Corsair

The central theme of Rupert Thomson's haunting novel is how we shape our destiny. A naive 19-year-old, she's virtually an orphan – her mother has died of cancer and her busy war correspondent father is often absent. She decides to disappear, travelling to Berlin on a whim. Convinced she's being sent celestial 'messages', she allows her interpretation of a series of random encounters to shape where she goes, her "experiment with coincidence". En route she acts out conversations with her father –



and her daydreams start to slowly merge with reality until the reader's left questioning what's fact and what's fiction. But the reader is left cold with a protagonist who's ultimately unlikeable.

By Kate Whiting

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Michael Morpurgo has been one of the stars at previous Oswestry LitFests



Ruby Wax will launch next year's LitFest at a special preview show

Town looks forward to another LitFest

FANS of Oswestry Literary Festival are already looking forward to the delights of next year's event.

Organisers have announced that comedian and writer Ruby Wax will appear at a special LitFest preview in January when the line-up of the festival, which runs in March, will be announced.

And people of all ages will benefit from the festival, supporters say. Young people in Oswestry particularly benefit from having a literary festival on their doorstep, the headmaster of one of the town's schools says.

Julian Noad, head of Oswestry School, said it was important that the school supported the town's LitFest as it would include several events aimed at children and young people.

In the past some of the top children's authors in the country including Michael Morpurgo have graced the festival. Oswestry School is one of the event's sponsors.

Mr Noad said: "We are very much part of the community and we are very lucky to have this on our doorstep."

The school's English teacher Sue Nancini said it was wonderful to be able to show students such a wide range of literature.

"The Oswestry Litfest is remarkable," she said.

"We could spend a fortune bussing our students to literary talks and workshops but we have them right here in Oswestry."

"The festival can also show young people that good literature does not necessarily mean the classics that they have to study for their exams. It shows that actually, reading is cool."

Pam Parrish from Authors Inspire agreed.

"In our work with children reading plays a central role," she said.

Andrew Clarke from another of the sponsors, Morris Cook, said the Michael Morpurgo visit had been a highlight of previous LitFests.

"The way he communicated with the children was electric," he said.

Oswestry Litfest could also organise

SPECIAL REPORT

By Sue Austin

events to help those with mental health issues.

Ruby Wax will launch the March event with her talk in January around her book, *Frazzled*, which charts her own battle with clinical depression and how mindfulness has helped.

Dr Helen Willows, a former Oswestry GP said studies showed that shared reading could help wellbeing and said there had been pilot sessions at Oswestry library.

"I am hoping that we can hold sessions as part of LitFest," she said.

The festival will run from March 17 to 20 with as yet un-named writers, storytellers and performers appearing in venues across the town.

Inspire

Festival director Carrie Morris said: "Everything we do looks to inspire and enthuse all ages through stories shared, and tales told."

"We are a community enterprise, working with a dedicated LitFest team of passionate and knowledgeable volunteers, key local partners, organisations and business champions, each of whom have the same wish – to celebrate and promote the joy and thrill of story-telling and reading."

The festival's media partner for the second year running will be the Oswestry and Border Chronicle and its sister paper the Shropshire Star.

The festival was originally creatively inspired by the life and work of world-renowned, Oswestry-born poet and soldier, Wilfred Owen.

The guest speaker at the second Wilfred Owen lecture on March 18, the evening of his birthday, will be announced shortly.

Tickets for *Frazzled* with Ruby Wax are available now from the LitFest box office at Booka Bookshop, by calling (01691) 662244, or alternatively reserving online at www.oswestrylitfest.co.uk



The Oswestry LitFest team are ready for another fantastic event

There's plenty going on in the big run-up to Christmas

THERE is plenty going on in the Oswestry and Welshpool area to keep people entertained in the run-up to Christmas.

Members of Cantiones Choir, Oswestry's Chamber Choir, would like to extend an invitation to their seasonal Carols by Candlelight.

Taking place at 7.30pm on Saturday at Christ Church, Oswestry, the concert will include some beautiful works for the choir, as well as favourites for the audience to sing.

Tickets cost £10 for adults while those under the age of 16 get free admission. The cost of the ticket includes wine and mince pies. The tickets to the event are available from Rowanhorn, Old Chapel Court, Oswestry Heritage Centre, by phoning (01691) 238227 or at the door on the night.

There will be further music in Oswestry as Christmas gets closer when a silver band performs at an annual Christmas carol concert. Hope Church Oswestry will hold the event on December 20 at 6.30pm at Marches School, Morda Road. The singing will be accompanied by the Porhywaen Silver Band, and festive refreshments will be



available afterwards. Admission is free. Christmas is for all ages and children are invited to meet Santa by narrowboat on the Montgomery Canal this month. Llanyrnech Wharf Visitor Centre will be welcoming visitors aboard the George Watson Buck for a Santa Cruise this Saturday and Sunday as well as on the weekend of December 19 and 20. Boats will leave the wharf, just off the A483, at

1.30pm, 2.15pm, 3pm and 3.45pm. Tickets, priced £6.50 per person, include presents and treats for children and seasonal refreshments for adults. Booking is essential. Write to Santa Cruise, 8 Maes yr Eglwys, Llansantffraid, Powys, SY22 6BE, phone (01691) 828165 or email marty.amys@btinternet.com for ticket information.

There is plenty going on after the Christmas festivities too to keep people entertained. An author will be visiting Oswestry to talk about her new book next month. Fiona Barton will be visiting to discuss psychological thriller *The Widow*.

It will be published on January 14 and Fiona will be at Booka bookshop, Church Street, on January 19.

The Widow is the story of a devoted wife whose husband is accused of a terrible crime.

The evening will start at 7pm for 7.30pm and tickets cost £5, which includes a glass of wine or soft drink on arrival and £5 off a signed copy of *The Widow*. People are advised to book in advance.

For tickets, call in at the shop, call (01691) 662244 or email mail@bookabookshop.co.uk

● Photo – Members of Cantiones Choir will be performing this weekend

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Casualty
8.30pm
As Connie's burgeoning romance with Jacob continues to blossom, the unflappable consultant realises she must not let her personal life interfere with her duties as clinical lead. However, in doing so, she ends up dismissing her new lover when his instincts alert him to a problem.



QI XL
9pm
An extended edition of the quiz show, in which Stephen Fry muddles through the middle show of the middle series as comedians Jimmy Carr, Aisling Bea and Danny Bhoy compete alongside resident panellist Alan Davies. As usual, points are awarded for the answers the host finds most interesting.



The Chase: Celebrity Special
7pm
Bradley Walsh presents as Coronation Street's Jimi Mistry (Khalid Nazir), Emmerdale star Gemma Atkinson (Carly Hope), Loose Women's Nadia Sawalha (pictured) and former Game of Thrones actor James Cosmo pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser.



The World's Weirdest Weather
7pm
Weather conditions that cause fish to be washed ashore in India and draws sharks to the coast of Brisbane. Plus, an unusually heavy snowfall in Tucson, Arizona and strange circles in the Namibian desert, as well as footage of hailstorms, lightning and thunder storms.



Football League Tonight
9pm
George Riley and Kelly Cates present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches, including Hull City v Bolton Wanderers at the KC Stadium and Middlesbrough v Birmingham City at the Riverside in the Championship. Plus, all the goals from League One and League Two.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
10.00	Saturday Kitchen Live. Comedian Russell Howard hopes for "good news" as Rick Stein and John Torode subject him to food heaven or hell, and Susie Barrie picks out wines to accompany the studio dishes.
11.30	Simply Nigella. Recipes include griddled bavette steak, and a lemon pavlova. Last in the series. (R)
12.00	BBC News; Weather.
12.10	Football Focus.
12.50	Saturday Sportsday. A look ahead at the day's events.
1.00	Lewis Hamilton: Making History – F1 2015 Review. Suzi Perry is joined by Eddie Jordan and David Coulthard to look back at the 2015 campaign, as Lewis Hamilton battled his Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg for the title once again.
2.00	Bargain Hunt. A pair of nurses takes on a duo of paramedics in Derby. (R)
3.00	FILM: Toy Story (1995). A jealous toy cowboy vies with a charismatic hi-tech astronaut figure for his owner's attention. Pixar animated adventure, with the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen and Don Rickles.
4.15	Final Score. A round-up of this afternoon's football results.
5.15	Celebrity Mastermind. With Rob Deering, Amy Willerton, Andy Bell and Jason Watkins. (R)
5.45	BBC News.
5.55	Midlands Today; Weather.
6.00	Pointless Celebrities. Louis Theroux, Nancy Strang, Michael Underwood, Angellica Bell, Calum Best, Angie Best, Gary Lineker and Harry Lineker take part in a family-themed edition of the quiz.
6.50	Strictly Come Dancing. The five remaining couples must master two routines, Latin and Ballroom, as they compete to determine which four pairs will make it through to next weekend's Grand Final.
8.30	Casualty. Connie refuses to let her personal life interfere with her duties as clinical lead, but in doing so, she ends up dismissing Jacob's concerns about a very real problem.
9.20	The National Lottery Live. Ore Oduba presents as the all-important winning numbers are revealed.
9.30	Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special. Mrs Brown tries to work out what is inside a parcel addressed to Cathy and discovers Rory is planning to have plastic surgery. (R)
10.00	BBC News; Weather.
10.20	Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester City v Swansea City and Bournemouth v Manchester United; National Lottery Update.
11.40	The Apprentice. At the London Aquatic Centre, the remaining candidates are given the task of creating and producing a new health food, before pitching it to three major retailers. (R)
12.40	Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.45	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.05	Race to Super Bowl 50. Action from week 13 of the regular season. (R)
6.55	FILM: Anything But Christmas (2012). Festive drama, starring Elaine Hendrix.
8.25	FILM: Ray Harryhausen: Special Effects Titan (2011). A tribute to the visual effects artist.
10.00	Animal Park. Cub Malaika is kicked out of the lion's den. (R)
10.30	Kangaroo Dundee. (R)
11.00	Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R)
11.30	Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R)
12.00	James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. The chef demonstrates festive recipes. (R)
12.45	James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. The chef demonstrates festive food for inexperienced cooks. (R)
1.30	James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. With special guest French chef Michel Roux Senior. (R)
2.15	Len and Ainsley's Big Food Adventure. Len Goodman tries his first ever Indian curry in Leicester. (R)
3.00	Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. Terry Wogan and Mason McQueen visit Marlow, Buckinghamshire. Last in the series. (R)
3.30	Escape to the Country. Aled Jones helps a couple of retirees find a property in Northamptonshire. (R)
4.15	Flog It! From Wells Cathedral in Somerset.
5.15	Euro 2016 Draw. Live coverage from Paris.
6.30	The Great Pottery Throw Down. The four remaining potters compete in the final and their challenges include making an original 12-piece tea set out of porcelain. Last in the series. (R)
7.30	Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands. Michelle Dockery narrates an exploration of the Ryukyu Islands in south-west Japan, revealing unexpected stories of isolation, unique wildlife and unsolved mysteries. (R)
8.30	Dad's Army. Mainwaring sets up an observation post in the local lighthouse and annoys the ARP wardens by flooding the whole town with light during an air raid. (R)
9.00	QI XL. Jimmy Carr, Aisling Bea and Danny Bhoy compete alongside resident panellist Alan Davies, as question master Stephen Fry muddles through the middle show of the middle series.
9.45	TOTP2: Christmas 2015. Christmas-themed hits from the archive, including songs by Tom Jones, Adele, Wizzard, Slade, Wham, Jona Lewie, the Pogues and Kirsty MacColl, Shakin' Stevens, Pulp and Cilla Black.
10.45	FILM: The Prestige (2006). Two Victorian magicians become bitter rivals as one becomes obsessed with the secret to the other's greatest illusion. Mystery thriller, starring Hugh Jackman and Christian Bale.
12.50	FILM: The Winslow Boy (1999). Edwardian drama, starring Nigel Hawthorne.
2.30	This Is BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge
6.25	Pat & Stan
6.30	Pat & Stan
6.35	Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures
6.50	Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures
7.00	Signed Stories: Share a Story
7.05	Oddbods
7.10	Sooty
7.25	Super 4
7.40	Mr Bean: The Animated Series
7.50	Mr Bean: The Animated Series
8.00	The Aquabats! Super Show!
8.30	Thunderbirds Are Go
9.00	Jessie
9.25	Murder, She Wrote. Jessica becomes involved in astronomy and murder. (R)
10.20	The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)
11.25	The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)
12.30	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.35	The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)
1.40	Judge Rinder. Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)
2.40	FILM: The Polar Express (2004). A boy doubts the existence of Father Christmas, until a magical train arrives to take him to the North Pole. Animated adventure, with the voices of Tom Hanks and Leslie Zemeckis.
4.30	Doc Martin. News of Martin and Louisa's engagement spreads. (R)
5.35	ITV News Central; Weather.
5.45	Catchphrase Celebrity Special. With contestants David Haye, Andrea McLean and Louis Walsh.
6.45	ITV News and Weather.
7.00	The Chase: Celebrity Special. Jimi Mistry, Gemma Atkinson, Nadia Sawalha and James Cosmo answer general knowledge questions and work together to tackle quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity. Last in the series.
8.00	The X Factor. The three finalists assemble for the first of this weekend's live Grand Final shows, performing for the judges and the nation for what may be the last time.
10.05	The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Liverpool-born comedian John Bishop, F1 world champion Lewis Hamilton, Sound of Music Live! stars Kara Tointon and Mel Giedroyc, and Irish singer Hozier.
11.10	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
11.30	Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Burt Reynolds. The actor chats about his career, his love life, his addiction to prescription drugs and what it was like to be the highest-paid film star in the world. Last in the series. (R)
12.20	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. The host takes his successful talk show stateside. (R)
3.45	ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

Channel 4	
6.15	The King of Queens. (R)
6.40	The King of Queens. (R)
7.05	The King of Queens. (R)
7.30	Anglesey Sandman Triathlon. Action from the event in north Wales.
8.00	Everybody Loves Raymond. Robert and Amy get back together. (R)
8.30	Everybody Loves Raymond. Debra and Ray reminisce. (R)
9.00	The Morning Line. Rishi Persad presents from Cheltenham.
10.00	Frasier. Martin's girlfriend causes ructions. (R)
10.30	Frasier. A childhood prank returns to haunt Frasier. (R)
11.00	The Big Bang Theory. (R)
11.30	The Big Bang Theory. (R)
12.00	The Big Bang Theory. Sheldon hires an attractive female assistant. (R)
12.30	The Simpsons. Homer takes part in an FBI operation against Fat Tony. (R)
1.00	The Simpsons. Marge is reunited with three old friends. (R)
1.30	Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Cheltenham and Doncaster.
4.00	Come Dine with Me. Jules Hobbs hosts the first festive dinner party from south-east London. (R)
4.25	Come Dine with Me. Banker Tom Judge hosts a Dickensian Christmas-themed party in south-east London. (R)
5.00	Come Dine with Me. John Stevens hosts the third festive dinner party from south-east London. (R)
5.35	Come Dine with Me. Kate Kershaw hosts a Christmas word-themed party in south-east London. (R)
6.05	Come Dine with Me. Fun-loving salesman Charlie Spiteri hosts the final festive dinner party in south-east London, hoping to impress his guests with a three-bird roast and a snow machine. (R)
6.30	Channel 4 News.
7.00	The World's Weirdest Weather. Weather conditions that cause fish to be washed ashore in India and draw sharks to Brisbane. Plus, an unusually heavy snowfall in Arizona and strange circles in the Namibian desert.
8.00	Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows software executive Andy and garden designer Nicki, who are planning to build a "floating" house on the Thames, which would be the first of its kind in the UK. (R)
9.00	FILM: Red 2 (2013). Premiere. An ex-CIA agent reassembles his team of retired operatives to recover an advanced weapon that has gone missing. Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis and Helen Mirren.
11.15	TFI Friday. Martin Freeman, Idris Elba, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott, James Bay, Rita Ora and Sigma join Chris Evans for the entertainment show mixing music and chat with stunts and skits. (R)
12.20	Adam Hills: Happysim Live. (R)
1.15	Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R)
2.10	Fargo. (R)
3.20	Hollyoaks. (R)
5.30	River Cottage Bites. (R)
5.40	Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)
5.50	1001 Things You Should Know. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Peppa Pig
6.05	Bananas in Pyjamas
6.20	Bob the Builder
6.30	Tickety Toc
6.40	Zack and Quack
6.55	Milkshake! Monkey
7.00	Make Way for Noddy
7.10	Paw Patrol
7.20	Little Princess
7.35	Pip Ahoy!
7.50	Blaze and the Monster Machines
8.15	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
8.30	Wanda and the Alien
8.45	Toby's Travelling Circus
8.55	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Donnie meets Bigfoot.
9.30	The Saturday Show. Topical show looking at the week's headlines.
11.30	FILM: Santa Who? (2000). Family comedy, starring Leslie Nielsen.
1.20	FILM: The Perfect Holiday (2007). Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Morris Chestnut and Gabrielle Union.
3.10	FILM: The Nine Lives of Christmas (2014). Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Brandon Routh and Kimberly Sustad.
4.55	FILM: Once Upon a Christmas (2000). Premiere. A disillusioned Father Christmas is given a lesson in keeping the festive cheer alive and well by his own kids. Family drama, starring Kathy Ireland and John Dye.
6.35	5 News Weekend.
6.40	Funnest Fails, Falls & Flops. Comedy clip show featuring pranks gone wrong, unwise acts and failed attempts of misplaced ambition.
7.05	Police Interceptors. An officer tackles a drunken youth in a domestic dispute, a speeding motorist causes chaos after crashing into a gas main, and Doug gets to grips with a burglar. (R)
8.00	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Paul and Phil expect a routine eviction, but get more than they bargained for, while Stewart and Victor hunt down £66,000 owed by a businessman. (R)
9.00	Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches, including Hull City v Bolton Wanderers and Middlesbrough v Birmingham City in the Championship.
10.25	The Definitive History of Star Wars. Documentary taking a behind-the-scenes look at how the world's biggest, multi-billion pound movie franchise came into existence. Contributors include Gary Kurtz and Robert Watts. (R)
11.25	How Star Wars Changed the World. A look at the ways in which the Star Wars universe has inspired countless individuals, revealing the passions, loves and good humour of the sci-fi franchise's fans. (R)
12.25	The Gadget Show Christmas Special. The team presents a guide to the best festive gadgets. (R)
1.15	SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming.
3.10	Crackers About Christmas. Eccentric people who are always in the festive holiday spirit. (R)
4.00	Kids' Hospital at Christmas. (R)
4.50	Make It Big. (R)
5.15	Make It Big. (R)
5.45	Angels of Jarm. (R)
5.50	Angels of Jarm. (R)



Antiques Roadshow

8pm

Fiona Bruce presents the second of two episodes from Balmoral, where she takes a tour of the grounds in a 1953 land rover. Valuables brought in to be viewed include a collection of medals from both World Wars presented to a man who also rescued survivors from the Titanic.



The Secret History of the British Garden

9pm

Monty Don concludes the series by exploring how gardening has developed over the past 100 years, becoming one of Britain's most popular pastimes, with the horticulture industry becoming a key part of Britain's economy.



The X Factor

8pm

The climax of the singing contest comes from the SSE Arena, Wembley. A host of special guests will be appearing on stage before the results of the viewers' votes are tallied up and this year's winner is announced. The performer in question will get to record this year's X Factor single.



Homeland

9pm

Allison is placed under interrogation, and Carrie and Astrid decide to search for Quinn. Thriller following a team of CIA agents battling terrorists and problems in their personal lives, starring Claire Danes, Miranda Otto, Rupert Friend, F Murray Abraham and Alexander Fehling.



The Blind Side

10pm

Premiere. A middle-class family take in a hulking homeless teenager, who has no education or skills to speak of. The indomitable wife encourages him to turn his life around. Fact-based drama, starring an Oscar-winning Sandra Bullock alongside Quinton Aaron and Tim McGraw.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
7.40 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester City v Swansea City and Bournemouth v Manchester United. (R)
9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.
10.00 Fern Britton Meets Lord Ashdown. The broadcaster hears from another high-profile figures as part of her Advent series of interviews, this time turning to former leader of the Liberal Democrats, Paddy Ashdown.
11.00 Sunday Politics West Midlands. The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil. Including a regional round-up.
12.15 Bargain Hunt. From Norfolk. (R)
1.00 BBC News; Weather.
1.15 Saving the Forgotten Jews. How Ethiopian Jews were airlifted to safety in the 1980s and 1990s.
1.45 Lifeline. An appeal on behalf of Crisis.
1.55 Flog It! From Alnwick castle in Northumberland. (R)
2.45 FILM: Toy Story 2 (1999). Buzz Lightyear races to rescue Woody when he is stolen by a toy collector planning to sell him to a museum. Animated sequel, featuring the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen.
4.15 Songs of Praise. With Mary Berry.
4.50 The Hunt. How predators hunt in coastal waters, where everything is in constant motion and opportunities have to be taken quickly. Featuring dolphins, octopuses and fishing wolves. (R)
5.50 BBC News.
6.10 Midlands Today; Weather.
6.20 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison and Matt Baker explore the Peaks in Derbyshire, Sean Fletcher reports on the renovation of Haddon Hall, and Adam Henson presents a look at the history of tractors. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. The five remaining couples gather for one last elimination show, as the least successful couples face a dance-off. Plus, Kylie Minogue performs with the professional dancers.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Balmoral, and sees archive footage of the royal family. Valuables featured include a collection of medals with a connection to the Titanic.
9.00 The Hunt. Efforts to protect endangered predators, looking at the precarious future for species on five continents, including lions, tigers, polar bears and blue whales. Last in the series.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Midlands Today; Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents action from today's Premier League matches, which were Aston Villa v Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur v Newcastle United and Liverpool v West Bromwich Albion.
11.40 Citizen Khan. Mrs Khan worries that Alia's new boyfriend sounds too rough. (R)
12.10 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.15 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.00 The A to Z of TV Gardening.** Carol Kirkwood looks at subjects beginning with the letter G. (R)
6.45 Big Dreams Small Spaces. Monty Don helps amateur gardeners who are battling the elements. (R)
7.45 Countryfile. Exploring some of Scotland's most remote scenic areas. (R)
8.45 An Island Parish: Falklands. Plans are made to commemorate Liberation Day. (R)
9.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. Highlights of the series.
10.45 James Martin - Home Comforts at Christmas. The chef demonstrates festive recipes inspired by his childhood. (R)
11.30 James Martin - Home Comforts at Christmas. With guest Charlie Dimmock. (R)
12.15 MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team.
1.00 FILM: Jason and the Argonauts (1963). Fantasy adventure, starring Todd Armstrong.
2.45 Family Finders. A woman tracks down her sisters for the first time. (R)
3.15 Escape to the Continent. A Wiltshire couple hoping to move to Austria. (R)
4.15 Athletics: European Cross Country Highlights. Action from the annual event, which came from Hyeres, France, where medals were handed out in the men's and women's senior, under-23 and junior disciplines.
5.20 FILM: Nativity! (2009). Comedy, starring Martin Freeman.
7.00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. TV chef Ainsley Harriott and presenter Anne Diamond take on the antiques-hunting challenge, travelling in and around London on a search for auction-worthy items. (R)
8.00 Horizon: Tim Peake Special - How to Be an Astronaut. A video diary filmed over two years by Tim Peake, who will become the first British astronaut to board the International Space Station on 15 December.
9.00 The Secret History of the British Garden. Monty Don concludes the series by exploring how gardening has developed over the past 100 years, and how horticulture has become a key part of Britain's economy. Last in the series.
10.00 Professor Green: Suicide and Me. The rapper explores the circumstances surrounding his father's suicide and investigates why suicide is the biggest killer of males under the age of 45 in Britain. Previously shown on BBC3.
11.00 FILM: Seven Years in Tibet (1997). An arrogant Austrian mountaineer forms a friendship with the 14-year-old Dalai Lama, and learns the meaning of inner peace. Fact-based drama, starring Brad Pitt and David Thewlis.
1.10 Sign Zone: Countryfile. Exploring some of Scotland's most remote scenic areas. (R)
2.05 Sign Zone: Holby City. (R)
3.05 Sign Zone: James Martin - Home Comforts at Christmas. (R)
3.50 This Is BBC2.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge**
6.25 Pat & Stan **6.30 Pat & Stan** **6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures** **6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures** **7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story** **7.05 Oddbods** **7.10 Sooty** **7.25 Super 4** **7.40 Mr Bean: The Animated Series** **7.50 Mr Bean: The Animated Series** **8.00 The Aquabats! Super Show!** **8.30 Marvel Super Heroes: Maximum Overload** **9.00 Jessie**
9.25 Murder, She Wrote. Jessica investigates a curse. (R)
10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)
11.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)
12.30 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.40 FILM: Evil Under the Sun (1982). Hercule Poirot is called on to investigate the murder of a glamorous stage star holidaying on an Adriatic island. Mystery, starring Peter Ustinov, Diana Rigg and James Mason.
3.00 The X Factor. The three finalists assemble for the first of this weekend's live Grand Final shows, performing for the judges and the nation for what may be the last time. (R)
5.00 FILM: The Scorpion King (2002). A warlord resolves to rid the desert of its last remaining tribes, prompting them to seek the aid of a legendary assassin. Fantasy adventure, with Dwayne Johnson and Steven Brand.
6.35 ITV News Central; Weather.
6.45 ITV News and Weather.
7.00 Jekyll and Hyde. Part two of two. Robert tries to protect Ravi when he is taken over by the parasite, and sets a trap for Bulstrode in an attempt to rid himself of MIO once and for all.
8.00 The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs announce this year's winner in the climax of the singing contest from the SSE Arena, Wembley, with performances from special guests. Last in the series.
10.00 The World According to Kenny Everett. Profile of the comedian and DJ, featuring classic clips from his TV shows, never-before-seen archive footage, and contributions from family, friends and colleagues.
11.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
11.15 The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)
12.15 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00 Motorsport UK. High-speed coverage from around the country, featuring deciding battles in the Ginetta Juniors and Renault UK Clio Cup. **3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**
5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)

Channel 4

- 6.15 The King of Queens.** Carrie discovers how lonely Spence is. (R)
6.40 Beat the Sun 2015. Five teams attempt to circumnavigate Mont Blanc before sunset.
7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. Debra's friend has a breast enlargement. (R)
8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. Ray and Debra argue about a can opener. (R)
8.30 Frasier. The shrink confronts his neighbours. (R)
9.00 Frasier. Eddie receives psychiatric help. (R)
9.30 Sunday Brunch. With guests Chris Ramsey and Kim Wilde.
12.30 The Big Bang Theory. Leonard and Sheldon fight for control of a project. (R)
1.00 The Big Bang Theory. Tension mounts when the gang attends a weekend science conference. (R)
1.30 The Big Bang Theory. Sheldon receives acting lessons. (R)
2.00 The Simpsons. Lisa discovers her mother was an A-grade student. (R)
2.30 The Simpsons. Mr Burns suffers from amnesia. (R)
3.00 FILM: Marley and Me (2008). Comedy drama, starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston.
5.20 FILM: Aladdin (1992). Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Robin Williams.
7.00 Channel 4 News.
7.30 Britain's Wildest Weather 2015. Documentary featuring footage of unusual weather conditions in the past year shot by members of the public, including freak hailstorms, high winds, lightning strikes and a tornado.
9.00 Homeland. Allison is interrogated, and Carrie and Astrid search for Quinn. Thriller following a team of CIA agents, starring Claire Danes.
10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
11.05 FILM: Mama (2013). A couple take in two orphans left alone in the woods, unaware a supernatural force is watching over the children. Horror, starring Jessica Chastain and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau.
12.55 Grand Designs Australia. A couple restore a 150-year-old cottage in Melbourne. (R)
1.45 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. Featuring a vintage-stall owner who has filled sheds, a gazebo and much of her house with her hoard, and a woman whose home has not had a deep clean in 12 years. (R)
2.40 Four in a Bed. The competition begins at a B&B in Stratford-upon-Avon. (R)
3.10 Four in a Bed. Ben Gray and Katie Keegan host at Ashlack in Cumbria. (R)
3.35 Four in a Bed. The third visit of the week is to the Richwood in Torquay. (R)
4.05 Four in a Bed. The contestants head to the Brecon Beacons for the week's last challenge. (R)
4.35 Four in a Bed. The owners discover who has won the competition. (R)
5.05 Location, Location, Location. Windsor and Sheffield. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshaket:** Peppa Pig **6.05 Bananas** in Pyjamas **6.20 Angelina Ballerina** **6.30 Bob the Builder** **6.45 Ticky Toc** **6.55 Zack and Quack** **7.05 Roobarb** and Custard Too **7.15 Make Way for Noddy** **7.25 Paw Patrol** **7.40 Little Princess** **8.00 Pip Ahoy!** **8.10 Blaze** and the Monster Machines **8.35 Ben** and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.50 Wanda** and the Alien **9.05 Toby's Travelling Circus** **9.20 Jelly Jamm** **9.40 LazyTown**
10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. The team discover April's mother. (R)
10.35 Football League Tonight. Highlights include Hull City v Bolton Wanderers. (R)
12.00 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. Comedy clip show featuring pranks gone wrong. (R)
12.35 FILM: The Christmas Shepherd (2014). Drama, starring Teri Polo.
2.20 FILM: Meet the Santas (2005). Fantasy comedy sequel, with Steve Guttenberg.
4.05 FILM: Mrs Miracle 2: Miracle in Manhattan (2010). Family drama sequel, starring Doris Roberts.
6.00 FILM: A Country Christmas Story (2013). Premiere. A teenager from the Appalachian mountains dreams of being a country singer, and defies her mother to take part in a concert. Musical, with Desiree Ross and Megyn Price.
7.35 FILM: Scrooge (1970). A miserly man is taught the error of his ways by a host of spectral visitors. Musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, starring Albert Finney and Alec Guinness.
9.55 5 News Weekend.
10.00 FILM: The Blind Side (2009). Premiere. A couple take in a homeless teenager and help him fund his education and train to be an American football player. Fact-based drama, with Sandra Bullock and Quinton Aaron.
12.30 Who Killed Santa: True Crimes. The murder of a homeless man whom people referred to as Santa Claus is solved due to the determination of police and scientists. (R)
1.05 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.10 Danger: Teen Bingers. One-off programme focusing on young people who are obese, including a 14-year-old who is twice her recommended BMI and has been offered a gastric band. (R)
4.00 House Doctor. A flat in Kensal Green, west London. (R)
4.25 Make It Big. Josh's birthday cake gets locked in a drawer. (R)
4.50 Make It Big. Matt and Jess receive an official warning. (R)
5.15 Make It Big. Jess gets a warning from HQ after her recent bad behaviour. Suraj gives the team a pep talk - but the effects do not last long. (R)
5.45 Angels of Jarm. Mick and Ellie help to resolve a squabble. (R)
5.50 Angels of Jarm. Ephraim is accused of taking things. (R)

Puzzles

BRAIN TRAINING

Test your mental agility. Target times, in minutes, are in the little clocks

9-er



Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all 9 letters.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

THE CLUES

- 524 gives meat
1239 gives food in general
478536648 gives something you might have on toast

Your time:

X is to Y



1. Star Wars is to Williams as Lawrence of Arabia is to ? ARNOLD, BARRY, JARRE, MORRICONE, SHORE
2. Parr is to Salmon as Elver is to ? EEL, HERRING, PERCH, SHARK, STICKLEBACK
3. Aldergrove is to Belfast as Lulgate is to ? BIRMINGHAM, BRISTOL, CARDIFF, GLASGOW, MANCHESTER

Your time:

Mindbender



Today is Lizzie's Birthday! If you reverse the two digits of Lizzie's age, multiply by four and subtract twenty-one, you'll have Lizzie's age. How old is Lizzie?

Your time:

Mirror Image



Which of the four shapes below is an exact mirror image of the shape on the right?



A



B



C



D



Your time:

Split Decision



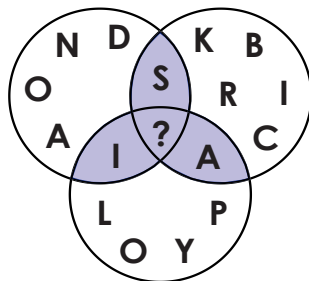
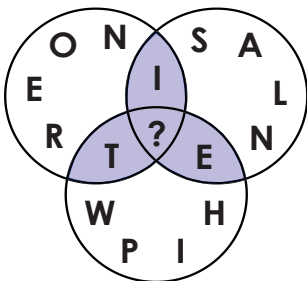
Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.

R	G	L	K	T
H	E	M	L	O
O		A		C
U		I		H
L	A	S	R	E
P	E	D	T	S
E	W	G	S	A
S	D	B	O	F
				R
				N

Your time:

CIRCLEGRAM

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be rearranged to form words with a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



ALPHAMUDDLE

Rearrange the letters to make five words that read both across and down. Five letters have been placed to start you off.

N	U	L	I	A
M	N	A	M	I
A	E	C	E	R
R	B	D	G	L
N	E	N	E	B

				B
L				
	N			
		N		
			E	

IMPOSSIPUZZLES

1. On a traditional clock, the hour hand was right on a minute mark, three minutes behind the minute hand.

What was the time that evening?

2. Today we have a Magic Square, but one with a difference! It's a sequence of 49 consecutive odd positive numbers in solid square formation so that each column, each row, and each diagonal adds up to 1,981.

What must be the least and the greatest numbers in the sequence?

3. Jack is twice as old as Jill was when he was as old as she is now.
If Jack is four years older than Jill, how old is Jill?

SUDOKU

		3	6		2	8		
			3	8	1			
8								5
9	6			1			8	2
	8		5		6		1	
2	5			9			6	3
1								6
			1	4	9			
		8	7		5	1		

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12										
16				17			18			19
20	21				22		23			24
27		28		29		30		31		32
35			36			37		38		39
42	43			44		45		46		47
48		49		50		51		52	53	
56				57		58		59		60
64	65			66		67		68		69
72				73		74		75		76
79		80		81		82				83
85				86				87		

ACROSS

- 12 Recover (4,7)
13 Coating (6)
14 Vegetables (6)
16 Turn (4)
17 Quality (9)
18 Confess (5)
19 Action (4)
20 Find out (9)
22 Seat (5)
23 Amazed (9)
27 Twins (7)
30 Tied up (6)
31 Chessman (4)
32 Jackpot (5)
35 Split (4)
36 Rang (7)
38 Off (4)
39 Extend (7)
42 Levered (6)
45 Material (5)
46 Usual (7)
47 Honk (4)
50 Comforted (7)
52 Sign (5)
54 Dog (6)
56 Registered (7)
57 Pant (4)
59 Go back (7)
61 Collar (4)
64 Soak (5)
66 Dispatched (4)
67 Speaks (6)
69 Ahead (7)
72 Later (7,2)
73 Saw (5)
74 Blue (9)
79 Question (4)
81 Prevaricate (5)
82 Prepares to (4,5)
83 Wealthy (4)
85 Tell (6)
86 Model (6)
87 Eating (7,4)

DOWN

- 1 Interrogate (4)
2 Look (6)
3 Obstruct (6)
4 Hold (7)
5 Once more (5)
6 Don't know (4,2,4)
7 Meat (5)
8 Step up (9)
9 Prisoner (7)
10 Care (4)
11 Obscene (8)
15 Mumble (6)
21 Support (5)
24 Clear (7)
25 Less friendly (6)
26 Decree (6)
28 Years (5)
29 Tip (3)
33 Wine (7)
34 Booths (6)
37 Fear (5)
40 Task (5)
41 Marched (7)
43 Rule (5)
44 Rushes (6)
46 Donor (5)
49 Award (7)
51 Reckons (6)
53 Give back (6)
55 Cast (5)
58 Bed (4-6)
60 Over (3)
62 Strength (5)
63 Know (9)
65 Feeling (8)
68 Deals with (6)
70 Scent (7)
71 Bulletins (7)
75 Sailor (6)
76 Brook (6)
77 Slow (5)
78 Range (5)
80 Twelve (4)
84 Fellow (4)

SOLUTIONS

9-er
9-letter word: FARMHOUSE, Ham, fare, mushrooms.
X is to Y
1. Jarre, 2. Eel, 3. Bristol.
Mindbender
A is the mirror image.
Split Decision >

D	R	O	W	N
E	S			
P	A	S	T	E
O	A			
E	L	L	O	

Crossword
ACROSS: 12 Pull through, 13 Baiter, 14 Onions.
16 Spin, 17 Attribute, 18 Admit, 19 Dead, 20 Ascerlain, 22 Stool, 23 Staggered, 27 Doubles.
30 Mooray, 31 Hook, 32 Paddy, 35 Bear, 36 Dialect.
38 May, 39 Stork, 42 Pried, 45 Berge, 46 General, 47 Tool, 48 Limp, 50 Colored, 52 Virgo.
54 Selter, 56 Entered, 57 Puff, 59 Retreat, 61 Ruff, 64 Sheep, 66 Sent, 67 Utters, 69 Forward.
72 Further on, 73 Spied, 74 Depressed, 79 When, 81 Fence, 82 Sets about, 83 Rich, 85 Wren, 86 Sitter, 87 Putting away.

DOWN: 1 Pump, 2 Gance, 3 Thwart, 4 Chap.
5 Again, 6 Have no idea, 7 Steak, 8 Promotion, 9 Hostage, 10 Mind, 11 Indecent, 15 Mutter, 21 Shove, 24 Evident, 25 Cooler, 26 Oudain, 28 Burns, 29 Envy, 33 Marsala, 34 Stalls, 37 Dread, 40 Choke, 41 Trooped, 43 Reign, 44 Dashed, 46 Clow, 49 Present, 51 Counts, 53 Return, 55 Throw, 58 Four-poster, 60 Too, 62 Force, 63 Recognise, 65 Touching, 68 Treats, 70 Perfume, 71 Reports, 75 Rating, 76 Stream, 77 Lento, 78 Garnet, 80 Noon, 84 Chap.

Impossipuzzles
1. Time, 6:36 p.m., 2. 235 to 331, 3. Jill is 12 years old.
Circlegram
A: The letter represented by the question mark is R. Fountain, spaniel, whipped, all breeds of dog.
B: The letter represented by the question mark is M. Madison, Bismarck, Olympia, all US state capitals.
Alphamuddle
Climb, Lunar, Inane, Mange, Breed.

4	3	8	7	6	5	1	2	9
6	7	2	1	4	9	8	5	3
1	9	5	2	3	8	7	4	6
2	5	1	6	9	7	4	8	3
3	8	4	5	2	6	9	1	7
9	6	7	4	1	3	5	8	2
5	1	6	9	7	4	2	3	8
8	2	3	8	1	6	7	4	9
7	4	3	6	5	2	8	1	9

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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.

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Supercar now even better

By Graham Breeze

How to improve one of the most popular supercars on European roads was the dilemma facing designers at Audi – but somehow they have managed to make the all-new R8 even better.

The V10 supercar is arriving in UK showrooms this month with advanced new Quattro all-wheel-drive, up to 610PS and a breathtaking top speed of 205mph.

This second generation R8 comes in two models, both featuring V10 engines – one with 532bhp, the other with 602bhp. The entry level V10, costs £119,500, while the V10 Plus model starts at £134,500, though the Plus version just tested was packed with extras to take the price up to a staggering £153,350.

When we're talking supercars you clearly need to know how it performs so you won't be disappointed to hear there's 0-62mph in 3.2 seconds, 0-124mph in 9.9 seconds and a 205mph top speed. You also won't be disappointed to hear that it sticks to the road like glue. There could have been no better location to test its handling abilities than the demanding roads of the Cote de'Azur where the results were as near as it gets to a real-life version of Scalextric thanks to the quattro all-wheel drive and variable torque control.

Audi has achieved all this because the chassis is stiffer and the four-wheel drive system is smarter, while the engines produce more energy yet burn less fuel despite the 5.2-litre block being unchanged. Other improvements include a stunning virtual cockpit, Audi drive

select to allow the individual to choose his or her own performance level, Audi connect for Internet services, and all-round parking assist – a must as the R8 is wider than you would expect and the last thing you want is to scratch the valuable alloy wheels.

Inside the cabin it's as near perfect as it can get. The Audi cockpit is set in a free-standing housing with all the information displayed on a 12.3inch screen and everything controlled from the multifunction steering wheel via a series of well positioned buttons. You control the information and entertainment facilities from the wheel and the drive select system which means you can adjust exhaust noise and adjustable flaps alongside the performance mode selection.

Night time driving has been improved with the introduction of optional laser light technology. The standard LED lights are strong enough but the laser system takes things to a new level. The £3,000 additional cost may prove too much for some though.

To improve fuel economy and enhance output, the latest V10 engine gains indirect fuel injection to complement its FSI direct petrol injection, and also features cylinder on demand technology for the first time. In simple terms the system shuts off one of the two cylinder banks by deactivating injection and ignition.

The R8 V10 can return up to 24.8mpg with CO2 emissions of 272 grams per kilometre – equivalent values for the R8 V10 plus are 23.0mpg and 287 grams per kilometre. I suspect you'll need to keep your foot off the accelerator to achieve these figures though. The figures represent an improvement in economy of up to 13 per cent compared to previous models.



A new freewheeling or 'coasting' function built into the seven-speed S tronic transmission fitted to both versions also boosts efficiency, while the newly developed quattro drive system transmits the power to the road with even greater adaptability.

Both versions are fitted with 19-inch wheels in exclusive designs as standard, and in the V10 plus these are combined as standard with ceramic brake discs offering even more assured stopping power.

On the outside, the V10 is equipped with

an electrically extending spoiler, while the R8 V10 plus gains a large fixed rear wing in carbon sigma, matching the finish of its heated and folding exterior mirrors, sideblades, front spoiler lip and rear diffuser.

To add visual impact to the mid-mounted 10-cylinder engine, both 540PS and 610 PS versions feature an interior LED lighting package which illuminates the glass-covered engine compartment and the footwells.

The test car checked in at £132,715 but if you can afford that you'll certainly be tempt-

ed to add a reversing camera, gloss engine trim, laser lights, a storage package, sports exhaust, dynamic steering, magnetic ride, pneumatic seat adjustment, Alcantara headlining, a leather package, cruise control, a Bang & Olufsen sound system and a phone system.

Add delivery charge and road fund licence fee of £1,100 and the price totalled £153,650.

If you want one you'll have to move quickly because enthusiasts have already pre-ordered 300 vehicles and Audi only expects to have a total of 450 for sale in the UK.

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15 Reg	Ford B-Max, Zetec EcoBoost 100PS 5dr MPV 1.0 Petrol, FSH, 2913mls, £30 RFL	£15,990	£2,995	£11,995
15 Reg	Skoda Fabia, SE 5dr HBK 1.2 Petrol, FSH, 4829mls, £30 RFL	£14,035	£3,040	£10,995
15 Reg	Skoda Rapid, SE Tech 5dr HBK 1.6 Diesel, FSH, 10158mls, £20 RFL	£18,365	£6,370	£11,995
15 Reg	Skoda Rapid, Sport 5dr HBK 1.2 Petrol, FSH, 6663mls, £30 RFL	£16,095	£4,100	£11,295
15 Reg	Skoda Octavia, Elegance 5dr HBK 2.0 Diesel, FSH, 13446mls, £20 RFL			£17,995
15 Reg	Skoda Octavia, VRS 180PS 5dr EST 2.0 Diesel, FSH, 6812mls, £30 RFL	£25,960	£3,965	£19,995
15 Reg	Skoda Superb, SE Auto 5dr HBK 2.0 Diesel, FSH, 8444mls, £30 RFL	£24,205	£8,210	£15,995

SAVE UP TO £1500

		WAS	SAVE	NOW
63 Reg	Ford C-Max, Zetec 5dr MPV 1.6 Diesel, FSH, 5185mls, £30 RFL	£12,295	£300	£11,995
63 Reg	Ford Focus, Zetec 5dr HBK 1.0 Petrol, FSH, 10467mls, £20 RFL	£11,295	£800	£10,495
61 Reg	Hyundai i10, Classic 5dr HBK 1.2 Petrol, FSH, 13533mls, £20 RFL	£4,995	£200	£4,795
11 Reg	Nissan Juke, Visia 5dr HBK 1.6 Petrol, FSH, 29081mls	£8,295	£300	£7,995
62 Reg	Peugeot Bipper, Teepee 5dr MPV 1.3 Diesel, FSH, 20711mls, £30 RFL	£6,995	£400	£6,595
14 Reg	Peugeot 208, Access 3dr HBK 1.0 Petrol, FSH, 36819mls, £0 RFL	£6,295	£300	£5,995
14 Reg	Skoda Octavia, SE 5dr HBK 2.0 Diesel, FSH, 12271mls, £20 RFL	£15,295	£800	£14,495
64 Reg	Skoda Octavia, S 5dr HBK 1.6 Diesel, FSH, 11194mls, £0 RFL	£13,995	£300	£13,695
64 Reg	Skoda Rapid Spaceback, SE Tech 5dr HBK 1.6 Diesel, FSH, 11121mls, £30 RFL	£12,495	£1,500	£10,995
12 Reg	Skoda Yeti, SE 5dr HBK 1.2 Petrol, FSH, 30928mls	£11,295	£800	£10,495
64 Reg	Skoda Yeti, L&K 5dr HBK 2.0 Diesel, FSH, 2709mls	£22,995	£1,000	£21,995
62 Reg	Vauxhall Meriva, Active 5dr MPV 1.3 Diesel, FSH, 21459mls	£7,995	£300	£7,695
13 Reg	Vauxhall Astra, SE 5dr HBK 1.6 Petrol, FSH, 25473mls	£9,295	£300	£8,995

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		WAS	SAVE	NOW
15 Reg	Skoda Fabia, SE 5dr HBK 1.2 Petrol, 10mls, £20 RFL	£15,865	£2,870	£12,995
65 Reg	Skoda Rapid Spaceback, SE Tech 5dr HBK 1.6 Diesel, 10mls, £20 RFL	£18,975	£4,980	£13,995
65 Reg	Skoda Rapid, SE GreenTec 5dr HBK 1.6 Diesel, 10mls, £20 RFL	£18,425	£4,430	£13,995
65 Reg	Skoda Yeti, SE 4x4 5dr 4x4 2.0 Diesel, 10mls	£23,375	£2,380	£20,995

JUST ARRIVED

13 Reg	Ford Bmax, Titanium 5dr MPV 1.6 Diesel, FSH, 15006mls	£9,995
14 Reg	Ford Focus, Zetec Navigator 5dr HBK 1.0 Petrol, FSH, 24045mls	£6,795
62 Reg	Skoda Citigo, Elegance Green Tech 5dr HBK 1.0 Petrol, FSH, 10445mls	£6,595
11 Reg	Nissan Juke, ACE 5dr SUV 1.6 Petrol, FSH, 50096mls	£7,995
59 Reg	Ford Kuga, Zetec 4x4 5dr SUV 2.0 Diesel, 26555mls	£11,495
62 Reg	Ford Focus, Zetec 5dr HBK 1.6 Petrol, FSH, 20493mls	£8,995
62 Reg	Ford Fiesta, Zetec 5dr HBK 1.4 Diesel, FSH, 26074mls	£7,695
62 Reg	Skoda Rapid, SE 5dr HBK 1.6 Diesel, FSH, 57145mls	£7,295

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64 Reg	Ford Fiesta, Zetec EcoBoost 100PS 3dr HBK 1.0 Petrol, FSH, 7833mls, £0 RFL	£10,395
64 Reg	Ford Fiesta, Zetec Econetic 5dr HBK 1.6 Diesel, FSH, 9885mls, £0 RFL	£10,495
15 Reg	Ford Fiesta, Zetec 5dr HBK 1.25 Petrol, FSH, 10983mls	£9,295
13 Reg	Ford Fiesta, Zetec EcoBoost 100PS 5dr HBK 1.0 Petrol, FSH, 14863mls, £0 RFL	£9,295
14 Reg	Ford Fiesta, Zetec 5dr HBK 1.2 Petrol, FSH, 8083mls, £30 RFL	£8,995
64 Reg	Ford Fiesta, Zetec 5dr HBK 1.5 Diesel, FSH, 13274mls, £0 RFL	£10,795
63 Reg	Ford Fiesta, ST EcoBoost 182PS 3dr HBK 1.6 Petrol, FSH, 15789mls	£12,995
60 Reg	Ford Fusion, + 5dr HBK 1.6 Petrol, 57416mls	£3,495
59 Reg	Ford Focus, Zetec 5dr HBK 1.6 Petrol, 44316mls	£5,295
62 Reg	Ford Focus, Zetec EcoBoost 100PS 5dr HBK 1.0 Petrol, FSH, 18195mls, £30 RFL	£9,495
62 Reg	Ford Focus, Zetec 5dr HBK 1.0 Petrol, FSH, 16256mls, £20 RFL	£9,495
62 Reg	Ford Focus, Zetec 5dr HBK 1.6 Diesel, FSH, 13838mls, £20 RFL	£9,995
11 Reg	Ford Focus, Titanium X 5dr HBK 2.0 Diesel, FSH, 18412mls	£10,995
14 Reg	Ford Focus, Zetec EcoBoost 5dr HBK 1.0 Petrol, FSH, 33714mls, £30 RFL	£9,995
14 Reg	Ford Focus, Zetec EcoBoost 5dr HBK 1.0 Petrol, FSH, 24671mls, £20 RFL	£10,295
15 Reg	Ford Focus, Titanium Navigation 5dr HBK 1.5 Diesel, FSH, 2330mls, £0 RFL	£15,795
64 Reg	Ford Kuga, Titanium 4x4 5dr SUV 2.0 Diesel, FSH, 9154mls	£19,595
10 Reg	Honda CRV, ES 5dr SUV 2.0 Petrol, 34410mls	£10,795
06 Reg	Mini Cooper, S 2dr CONV 1.6 Petrol, 50310mls	£5,495
10 Reg	Skoda Fabia, SE 5dr HBK 1.6 Diesel, FSH, 25542mls, £20 RFL	£5,995
14 Reg	Skoda Fabia, Greenline 5dr HBK 1.2 Diesel, FSH, 18260mls, £0 RFL	£8,295
63 Reg	Skoda Octavia, Elegance 5dr HBK 1.4 Petrol, FSH, 14214mls, £30 RFL	£12,995
62 Reg	Skoda Octavia, SE 5dr HBK 1.6 Diesel, FSH, 30653mls, £30 RFL	£8,995
62 Reg	Skoda Octavia, SE 5dr HBK 1.6 Diesel, FSH, 28955mls, £30 RFL	£8,995
63 Reg	Skoda Octavia, SE 5dr HBK 1.2 Petrol, FSH, 11436mls	£11,595
64 Reg	Skoda Octavia, Elegance TSI 140PS 5dr HBK 1.4 Petrol, FSH, 4382mls	£14,995

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Heated Seats, 51,000 miles, FSH £15,999



2012 62 MINI COUNTRYMAN COOPER S
2.0 Diesel All 4 5-door. Green, 1 Owner,
FSH, 19,900 MILES £14,499



2012 12 LAND ROVER FREELANDER
2.2 TD4 GS Manual. Metallic Grey,
48,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH £15,499



2012 12 HONDA CRV 2.0 SE
Plus 4x4 Manual. Metallic Bronze,
9,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH
£13,999



2011 11 NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC
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2011 61	AUDI A3 1.6 Sportback, Manual, Metallic Silver, 32,000 miles, FSH	£10,999
2011 11	AUDI A1 1.4 TFSi SPORT 3-door Manual. Metallic Blue, 35,000 miles, FSH	£10,999
2006 55	AUDI A4 AVANT S-Line 2.0 TFSi QUATTRO Manual. Bright Red, 73,000 miles	SOLD
2008 08	AUDI A4 AVANT 2.0 TDi S-Line Manual. Metallic Silver, Sat Nav, FSH + Cambelt, 66,000 miles	£8,999
2012 12	BMW X1 SERIES 2.0d AUTOMATIC Metallic Bronze, 51,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH	£13,999
2007 57	BMW X3 2.0 SE Diesel. Bronze Metallic, 68,500 miles, Climate Control, Parking Sensors	£9,499
2011 11	CHEVROLET LACETTI ESTATE 1.8, Automatic, 1 Owner	£4,999
2013 63	CITROEN DS3 D style Plus 1.6, 1 Owner, Bright Yellow Manual, 12,000 miles, FSH	£8,999
2012 12	CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE 1.6 HDi Manual. Metallic Blue, 16,000 miles, 1 Owner	£8,999
2012 61	CITROEN 1.0 VTR+ 3-door, Red, 20,000 miles, A/C, Zero Road Tax	£4,999
2011 11	CITROEN C4 PICASSO 1.6 HDi VTR+ MPV. Bronze Metallic, 57,000 miles, Parking Sensors, FSH	£7,999
2014 14	FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCi 5-door. Manual in White, 11,000 miles, 1 Owner, In White, FSH	£10,999
2012 61	FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCi ZETEC 5-door Manual. 56,000 miles, FSH, Black	£8,499
2011 11	FORD FOCUS ST 3-door Manual. Bright Orange, 38,000 miles, FSH	£14,499
2009 59	FORD KA 1.3 ZETEC 3-door. Metallic Black, 52,000 miles	SOLD
2012 12	FORD FIESTA TDCi Manual, 5-door. Bright Red, 17,000 miles, FSH	£7,499
2010 60	FORD MONDEO SPORT 1.8 TDCi Hatchback Manual. Metallic Black, 72,000 miles	£5,999
2012 12	HONDA CRV 2.0 SE Plus 4x4 Manual. Metallic Bronze, 9,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH	£13,999
2010 60	HYUNDAI 130 PREMIUM 1.6 CRDi Estate Manual, Metallic Blue, 33,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH	SOLD
2007 07	ISUZU RODEO DENVER 4x4 Double Cab Manual. Metallic Silver, Stunning Condition, FSH	SOLD
2010 10	JAGUAR 3.0 XF TDV6 LUXURY 4-door Saloon. In Black with full Leather Interior, 39,000 miles, Reverse Camera, Sat Nav, Climate Control, FSH ..	£14,999
2011 11	LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 4 TDV6 GS Automatic. Metallic Black, 1 Owner, FSH, 25,000 miles	SOLD
2012 12	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 GS Manual. Metallic Grey, 48,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH	£15,499
2008 57	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 S Manual. Metallic Gold, FSH	£7,999
2010 60	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 XS New Shape Auto. Metallic Grey, Sat Nav, Heated Seats, 51,000 miles, FSH	£15,999
2010 10	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 GS Manual. Metallic Grey, 2 Owners, FSH, 55,000 miles	£12,499
2007 07	LAND ROVER FREELANDER GS Manual. Metallic Silver, 35,000 miles	£10,999
2007 57	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 S Manual. Metallic Black, FSH, 65,000 miles	£9,999
2008 08	MERCEDES E220 Cdi Avantgarde Auto. Metallic Black, Full Leather, ...	£7,999
2012 62	MINI COUNTRYMAN COOPER S 2.0 Diesel All 4 5-door. Green, 1 Owner, FSH, 19,900 miles	£14,499
2011 61	MINI COOPER DIESEL Bright Red, White Roof, Manual, 40,000 miles, 1 Owner	SOLD
2011 60	MITSUBISHI LANCER 2.0 TDi HATCHBACK Manual, Metallic Blue, 57,000 miles, FSH	£6,499
2011 11	NISSAN JUKE 1.6 ACENTA 5-door. Red Metallic, Climate Control, 36,000 miles	£7,999
2011 11	NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC 2.0 DCi 4x4 Manual. Metallic Gold, Sat Nav, Sunroof, 1 Owner, 23,000 miles	£13,999
2012 62	NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 1.5 DCi Manual. Metallic Blue, 12,000 miles	SOLD
2012 62	NISSAN NOTE 1.4 NTEC 5-door, Blue Metallic, One Owner, FSH, Only 10,000 miles	£7,299
2009 09	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 3-door, Metallic Blue, 61,000 miles	£3,999
2012 12	PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDi ACCESS 5-door Manual. Metallic Grey, £30 a year Road Tax, 50,000 miles	£6,499
2011 61	PEUGEOT BIPPER HDi Diesel Van. Silver Metallic, Side Loading Door, One Owner, 49,800 miles	£4,999+VAT
2007 57	PEUGEOT 308 S 1.6 HDi 5-door. Black, 77,300 miles, Air Conditioning	£3,999
2011 61	RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCi ESTATE Tom Tom, Manual, Metallic Red, 40,000 miles, 1 Owner	£6,999
2009 59	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi Manual, 5-door, Metallic Blue, £30 Road Tax, 48,000 miles	£5,499
2012 12	SEAT ALTEA XLL 2.0 SE TDi Estate, Grey Metallic, One Owner, 22,300 miles, FSH	£9999
2009 59	SEAT IBIZA SPORT 1.6 Automatic 3-door. Blue Metallic, One Owner, Only 16,000 miles	£5,699
2012 12	SKODA FABIA 1.6 ELEGANCE Diesel Estate Manual. 28,000 miles, FSH	£7,499
2005 55	SMART CITY PASSION Convertible Auto. Silver Metallic, 53,500 miles, £30 Road Tax	£3,499
2014 14	SUZUKI SX4 S-CROSS SZ-T 5 Door, Green Metallic, 7,990 Miles Parking Sensors DAB Radio One Owner	£11,999
2009 09	SUZUKI SX4 GLX 1.6 5 Door, Blue Metallic, 36,700 miles, Climate Control, Alloy Wheels, 2 Owners, 36,700 miles	£5,499
2012 62	VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.2 CDT 4x4 Manual, Metallic Black, 18,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH	SOLD
2012 62	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 DESIGN. Manual, Bright Red, 1 Owner, 7 Seats, 29,000 miles	£8,999
2014 14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 STi 5-door Manual. Bright Yellow, 1 Owner, 15,000 miles, FSH	£6,999
2011 61	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi 3-door, Green Metallic, 20,000 miles, Alloy Wheels, Air Con, FSH	£5,999
2009 59	VOLVO XC90 DS Automatic 4x4, 7 seater, Metallic Silver, Tow Bar, Roofbars, Bluetooth, 67,000 miles, FSH	£13,999
2009 59	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.6 TDi SE 5-door Manual. Bright Red, FSH, 17,000 miles	£6,999
2010 59	VW POLO 1.6 TDi SE 5-door Manual. Bright Red, only 17,000 miles, FSH	£6,999
2009 59	VW GOLF 1.4S 3-door. Manual, Metallic Silver, 55,000 miles, FSH	£6,499
2008 08	VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi SE Estate, Red Metallic, 6 Speed Manual, 47,000 miles, Privacy Glass, Roof Rails, 47,000 miles	£10,499

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CAR OF THE WEEK

57	RENAULT CLIO SPORT 2.0 Black, 66,000 miles, Stunning Car	SOLD
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56	VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic	£2895
56	CITROEN XSARA PICASSO HDI Diesel, Silver, FSH	£2195
56	PEUGEOT 307 XS 2.0 HDI Diesel, Bronze Met, Leather	£3650
54	JAGUAR X TYPE 2.5 V6 Auto, BRG, 86,000 miles, stunning car	£2495
54	FORD FIESTA FLAME 3dr, Silver	£2495
53	BMW 320i 2.0 COUPE Upgraded Alloys, Extensive Service History, Low Mileage for year, Outstanding Condition, Must be Seen	£3495

SUMMER SUN / SUMMER FUN

03	FORD STREET KA Blue Convertible	£1795
54	MG TF Convertible, in Yellow	£1595

AUTOMATICS

05	SAB 95 VECTOR 2.0 AUTOMATIC, Superb condition, must be seen	£2295
R	HONDA CIVIC 1.6LS, Exceptional Condition, Previously supplied by ourselves to one of our customers 10 Years ago, Owned by same customer since then	£395

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Motoring



Crossover joins compact line-up

The Infiniti QX30 premium active crossover is making its simultaneous global debut at the 2015 Los Angeles and Guangzhou international motor shows – signalling the next phase of the company's global growth strategy.

Created for a new generation of premium buyers, the QX30 boasts a purposeful appearance that makes a bold visual statement – and joins the Q30 as part of Infiniti's new premium compact model line-up.

Remaining true to the powerful and elegant design cues that guided the original QX30 concept, the car's highly sculpted exterior, unique crossover stance and asymmetric cabin design exemplify Infiniti's design-led approach to product development.

In addition to its striking appearance, the QX30 offers an elevated ride

height, confidence-inspiring handling, a 'go-anywhere' attitude and comes available with an intelligent all-wheel drive system. As a result, the vehicle is able to take on urban, suburban and winding rural roads in all driving conditions.

Speaking in Los Angeles, Roland Krueger, President of Infiniti, commented: "The QX30 active crossover is joining our new premium compact family at the right time and will broaden our offer to new customers around the world."

Global

"With our recent sales successes and record growth, the current product offensive will further strengthen Infiniti's global market position."

Alongside the Q30, revealed at the Frankfurt Motor Show in September 2015, the QX30 will play an integral role in Infiniti's promise to offer customers a broader range of premium products. The vehicle is also expected to contribute to the continual increase of global

sales – which have already hit record levels in 2015.

In the first 10 months of 2015, Infiniti sold almost 173,000 new vehicles worldwide, representing an increase of 16 per cent compared to the same period in 2014.

The 32,200 vehicles sold in China means Infiniti has already exceeded its full-year 2014 figure in what is now the world's largest car market.

While in the United States, Infiniti sold more than 106,700 vehicles, the best ever sales results in the country since 2005.

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Motoring



Vauxhall showroom upgrade

Plans have been announced by Arthurs of Oswestry, the award-winning Vauxhall dealer, to upgrade the Lower Brook Street showroom to Vauxhall's latest corporate standards.

The makeover comes as Arthurs celebrate 92 years of continuous trading as a motor dealer in Oswestry and part of the Vauxhall network since 1940.

Nigel Williams, managing director, said throughout that time Arthurs had always kept the premises up to the latest Vauxhall standards and the newest upgrade would start this month for a January completion.

"The latest refurbishment will involve new Vauxhall signage, new showroom lighting and futuristic furniture as well as a whole new paint décor," said Mr Williams.

"As a dealership we are very proud

of our Oswestry heritage and we continue to invest in the Vauxhall brand in the town. Not only are we employing over 30 local people in Oswestry, but we also try and support local businesses wherever possible.

"As a result we shall be using local companies for most of the refurbishment work." Having lived in the area all my life and completed all my schooling in Oswestry I am extremely keen to see the town thrive in the future and if Arthurs can contribute to Oswestry's future success it would be very pleasing for myself and all my colleagues.

"We have been fortunate to pick up many customer care awards over the years and we will endeavour to provide the very best customer care to local people in the future.

"We are also fortunate to have been the market leaders for new car sales in the Oswestry area postcodes for over

20 years and we intend to continue offering excellent deals so that customers do not have to travel outside our area to buy a new car.

"This would not have been possible without the major progression that has been made by Vauxhall in delivering high quality cars with the latest technological advancements.

"The most recent innovation has been the Vauxhall OnStar which is Vauxhall's on board personal connectivity assistance.

"This highlights how Vauxhall are at the leading edge of motoring technology with other innovations due over the next two years."

"The latest refurbishment is our strong commitment to the Vauxhall brand and to Oswestry."

Pictured: Mr. Nigel Williams studies the plans for the upgrade of Arthurs Oswestry showroom.



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Guilsfield washout – so try again on Saturday

GUILSFIELD'S trip to Cwmaman United in the Welsh Cup third round was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch – with the clubs to try again on Saturday.

Heavy rain in Carmarthenshire during the week had put a doubt over the tie, and local officials postponed the game on Friday afternoon following an inspection of the saturated ground.

Newtown, meanwhile, navigated a potentially tricky third round tie at Flint Town United to boost hopes of embarking on another lengthy run in this year's Welsh Cup.

Last season's beaten finalists were made to battle in windy conditions, but prevailed 2-0 thanks to terrific second half strikes from Craig Harris and Matty Owen.

Cymru Alliance duo Buckley Town and Cefn Druids were the giant-killers in the third round.

The Bucks knocked out Welsh Premier high-fliers Llandudno in a penalty shoot-out on their own Maesdu Park ground after a wind-swept tie had ended goal-less following extra-time.

Alliance leaders Druids produced a surprise in beating Welsh Premier strugglers Rhyl 1-0 at The Rock, TNS loanee Ryan Kershaw scoring the only goal of the game direct from a corner in the second minute of extra time.

Martin and Claire named top athletes

MALDWYN Harriers unveiled its 2015 Club Championship winners at the club's presentation evening and Christmas dinner.

Martin Copus, who won the Men's Over 40 title, was overall mens winner, while Jenny Evans took the overall women's crown despite starting the season late.

Copus landed the title of male athlete of the year, an annual award for club members who have produced good performances, sustained improvement and contribution to the development of the club.

Claire Abel was winner of the female athlete of the year accolade, while Maggie Walby and cross-country captain Ifan Jones received the chairman's award.

The Harriers' last race of 2015, the Corndon Three Peaks Challenge, takes place on Sunday, December 20 starting outside The Miners Arms in Priest Weston at 12noon.

Overall winners

Martin Copus and Jenny Evans; Senior men - Reece Moles; Senior women - Helen Wilkinson; Over 30 men - Darren Jerman; Over 30 women - Nikki Grainger; Over 40 men - Sean Clarke; Over 40 women - Helen Owen; Over 50 men - Haydn Jones; Over 50 women - Andre Hutchinson; Over 60 men - Chris Copus; Over 60 women - Jacqui Lloyd.

Telepost trio deliver and top the table

IT'S as easy as A, B, and C for Shrewsbury's Telepost chess club – as their A, B, and C teams are topping all three divisions in Shropshire Chess League.

The A-teamers went to Wellington missing some of their strongest players, but were nevertheless still too powerful for struggling Wellington, who started the match with only four players as Derrick Powell.

B-team player John Storey arrived a bit later looking for a little relaxed social chess but found himself immediately roped in to a division one battle.

Telepost are two points clear at the head of the table but it goes without saying that they will face much tougher opposition who will take full advantage if they continue to be unable to field their best team.

New Saints go down a storm on TV

TNS' clash with Aberystwyth Town became S4C's live televised Welsh Cup match at the 11th hour after the wet and windy weather cast a doubt over the Holyhead versus Bangor tie, which was originally planned to be broadcast.

It meant that the kick-off of the TNS cup game being put back from 2.30pm to 5.15pm to accommodate the TV cameras.

The decision was vindicated as the Holyhead game was called off due to high winds and rain following a morning inspection.

"The match between Holyhead Hotspur and Bangor City was picked to be the televised match and would have been the first ever live football match

on Anglesey, so it's disappointing that the elements have defeated us," said FAW Head of Competitions, Andrew Howard.

"We monitored the weather forecast all week and with the winds scheduled to be consistently over 40mph on Saturday in Holyhead, regrettably it's not safe to broadcast the game from the temporary gantry."

The decision was taken on Friday morning in consultation with all four clubs and the FAW and S4C.

■ Scott Ruscoe has been inducted into the Dafabet Welsh Premier Hall of Fame after being surprised live on S4C before his side's match against Airbus UK at Park Hall.

The New Saints legend made over 400 appearances for the club after signing in 2002, and scored 73 times.

He has now gone on to become the club's head of youth football and assistant manager of the first team after completing both his A License and A Youth accreditations.

As a player, Ruscoe started his career at Stoke City, moving to Port Vale, Newtown and Chester City, before switching to TNS in 2002, where he has remained ever since. He was previously team captain and has made a Welsh Premier record 30 appearances in Europe.

The midfielder has enjoyed a glittering career with

Saints are up and running in the Cup

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints made a convincing start to their defence of the JD Welsh Cup after sweeping aside Aberystwyth Town 3-0 in the third round at a blustery Park Hall.

The holders were dominant for much of the windswept tie, rarely allowing their Welsh Premier rivals a chance to settle as they emerged victors with plenty to spare.

They were always in control after taking a ninth minute lead through Chris Marriott whose inswinging corner from the right found the net via keeper Mike Lewis.

Scott Quigley turned in a Chris Seargeant shot in the 25th minute to double the advantage at the break, before Matty Williams headed a third midway through the second half to complete a relatively trouble free passage into the fourth round.

Boss Craig Harrison lauded another impressive display from his high-riding side, who are now 21 games unbeaten in all competitions this season.

"We started the game well, with a good tempo, and it was important to score an early goal," he said. "I think in the last eight or so games, we have scored in the first 20 minutes, and it makes a big difference."

"After that we kept the tempo going, the lads were relentless, and the work ethic and application was fantastic for the whole 90 minutes."

"The conditions were difficult, but we coped well as we like to keep the ball down and play, and showed a real appetite to win the game."

It was plain sailing for the Saints against their Welsh Premier rivals, with the full-timers looking comfortable on the ball while equally determined to regain possession at every opportunity.

Aber struggled to mount a serious raid at the other end, although home keeper Paul Harrison was called into one excellent save early in the second half when keeping out a Chris Venables header.

Fortunate

But the Seaisiders were on the back foot for most part, and were fortunate not to return home on the back of a much heavier margin of defeat.

This clash may have been a repeat of the 2014 final, in which the Saints overcame a two goal deficit to prevail 3-2 at Wrexham, but on this occasion there was no such drama as TNS went about their task with a minimum of fuss.

The hosts never looked back after taking the lead when Marriott's wind assisted corner from the right flew into the net off the head of perplexed keeper Mike Lewis.

The league leaders continued to call the tune and a second goal duly arrived when Adrian Cieslewicz squared to Seargeant whose low drive from 25 yards was turned into the net by Quigley from 10 yards.

TNS had chances to have been further ahead at the break, with Marriott's inswinging free kick from right being met by Aeron Edwards' near post header that appeared to be blocked by the hand of a defender.

Williams had the ball in the net a minute before half time but his effort was somewhat harshly scuppered by the offside flag.

The Saints continued in a similar vein in the second half, although they needed keeper Harrison to pull off a super save to deny Venables the chance of pulling one back.

However, victory was sealed in the 67th minute when Cieslewicz's angled strike from the left was deflected into the path of Simon Spender who dinked a neat cross back into the goalmouth for Williams to head past the diving Lewis.

After their cup demise, Aberystwyth are back at Park Hall on Friday night, this time in the league, and on this showing, will need to do something remarkable if they are to avoid a similar outcome.

Town book spot in cup quarters



Dave Hartshorn and Ish Rashid set up FC Oswestry Town's equaliser at Cleve Hill. Pics: Ian Jones.

HIGH-RIDING FC Oswestry continued their winning form to book their place in the last eight of the Shropshire FA Challenge Cup with a hard-fought 2-1 passage at Cleve Hill, writes **JOHN BRIDGWATER**.

A wet pitch and a strong wind made it tough going, and the home side put Town on the back foot right from the kick off with the long balls raining down on the defence, with guest keeper Mike Barton called in to action early on when tipping the ball over the bar twice in the opening 10 minutes.

Town had a couple of early chances through Harry Kerr and Dave Hartshorn, but it was Cleve

Hill who took the lead on the half hour with a headed goal at the back post.

The Oswestry side were glad to hear the half-time whistle, and were somewhat fortunate to be trailing by just the one goal.

The second half saw the visitors step up their game in the tricky conditions, but it was again Barton who was called in to action making two fine saves from the Cleve Hill forwards.

But Town drew level on 70 minutes when Elliot Howes picked out Hartshorn who in turn found Ish Rashid at the back post who hooked in from a very narrow angle

And with just 10 minutes to play, they took the lead when Joe Evans' delivery was volleyed home by Cal Williams, before seeing out the game with some strong defending from Graham Dyke and Rob Shone.

Nick Maguire's men return to their challenge in the Merican Regional League premier division on Saturday when they take on Bridgnorth Reserves at Park Hall (2pm).

While Town were involved in the cup, they lost pole position in the league as Allscot returned to the summit on goal difference after running out 6-1 winners against Wrockwardine Wood.



Harry Kerr goes on the attack for FC Oswestry in their Shropshire FA Challenge Cup match

Welshpool miss chance to go top of the table

WELSHPOOL Town missed a chance of taking pole position in the Spar Mid Wales League division one after slipping to a 4-0 home loss to free-scoring Knighton Town.

With leaders Penrhyncoch involved in Welsh Cup action and Llanrhaeadr sidelined by the weather, victory would have taken the Lilywhites to the summit.

But they failed to capitalise in a blustery affair at Maesdyre as the improving Radnor Robins sounded a warning to the rest of the league with a four goal salvo.

Mark Jones gave Knighton an interval lead, but Pool were very much in the hunt before their hopes faded in the second period as conditions and injuries took their toll.

Ex-Pool player Gareth Watkin added a second for the visitors before two goals from Conner Bird, the first from the penalty spot, sealed the game.

Neighbours **WATERLOO ROVERS** also failed to make up ground on the pacesetters as they slipped to a surprise 3-1 home loss to lowly Tywyn Brynmeir.

Strong wind made the going tough, with Tywyn opening up a two-goal lead before a fine strike from Nathan James revived Rovers.

However, with the conditions showing no sign of abating, a third goal earned Tywyn a valuable win in their bid to climb clear of basement danger.

Main beneficiaries were Carno who won 1-0 at Aberaeron to take over at the top from Penrhyn, while Pool slipped to third spot.

At the other end into the table, **MONTGOMERY**, with just two points to show from 14 games, are now seven points adrift of Tywyn at the foot of the division after their 1-0 reverse at Machynlleth.

The weather also hit the fixture list, with fourth placed Llanrhaeadr's challenge frustrated as their home encounter with Llandrindod Wells was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Also sidelined were Llanidloes Town – under new boss Hugh Clarke – whose trip to Hay St Mary's was another game to succumb to a saturated pitch.

In division two, promotion chasing **BERIERW** were also held up by the recent deluge with their trip to lowly Penybont postponed.

They remain five points adrift of Kerry, but with five games in hand, after the league leaders suffered a 3-2 home loss to Builth Wells who are now up to second spot.

DYFFRYN BANWS home clash with Borth was another casualty while, in the games that were played, Abermule edged out Churchstoke 3-2, and Betws were 4-2 winners against Presteigne.

Aberystwyth University maintained their revival with a 2-1 home verdict against Newbridge with goals in each half from Matthew Hunton and Niall Jones.

Radnor Valley reached the third round of the Spar Cup courtesy of a 3-2 extra time win against Bow Street.

Morda and Saints both washed out

MORDA United were again left without a Montgomeryshire League division one fixture at the weekend due to the wet weather.

The Weston Road men hope to return to action on Saturday when they host the first of two successive home league games.

Llanfyllin Town will be the visitors this weekend and Llanrhaeadr Reserves will visit Weston Road the following Saturday.

Both matches are scheduled to kick off at 2pm.

■ Without a scheduled fixture last weekend, St Martins return to duty at Wednesfield on Saturday at they look to maintain their position among the leading pack in the West Midlands Regional League division one.

Youthful Os side go down to so solid Crewe

OSWESTRY III produced a plucky display before slipping to a 26-7 loss to Crewe and Nantwich IV in the North West League division five (south)

Despite travelling without some of their regulars, they were boosted by the inclusion of some colts who more than held their own.

The Eagles trailed 14-0 to a couple of converted tries, but youngster Thomas Henry was outstanding at his new position of fly half and marked a fine display with a try.

He got the ball and, spotting space behind the defence, his neat chip bounced between two defenders and into his hands before outpacing his would-be tacklers to score under the posts, which he also converted.

Crewe were stung into action and despite Os having the beating of them in the forwards, they spread the ball out and went over for a third try.

The Eagles kept battling and, despite conceding a fourth touchdown, produced a terrific forward rumble late on to cross the line, only for the try to be disallowed for a knock-on.

On Saturday, they play their fourth away game in a row with a visit to Winnington Park IV.

Lowly Oswestry II boosted their survival prospects in the North West League division four (south) with a timely 40-10 win away to Bowdon III.

Victory lifted the Eagles up to third bottom on points difference.

It was a frustrating day for Oswestry's senior side whose home clash with Vagabonds in the Cheshire South was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch. They visit Eagle on Saturday.

Morda sides are setting pace at top

MORDA EXILES and Morda Tigers extended their unbeaten starts to the Oswestry & District Table Tennis League.

Llansilin Drovers and Morda A were defeated respectively ahead of a meeting between the top two.

Caereinion A are the best of the rest and hold on to third place after their draw against Crifflin's A.

In fine form for Caereinion was Wyn Williams, who won all three of his matches only dropping one.

In Division Two the Ex Servicemen's have regained top spot from Llansilin after their 8-2 win over Kinnerley. Julian Walford had three wins. Propping up the division are Chirk AAA who were beaten 10-0 by Llansilin.



Scrum time for COBRA and Pwllheli while (right) scrum-half Iwan Vaughan passes the ball out from a ruck watched by Aled Roberts (centre) and Hywel Jones



COBRA undone as late tries decisive

RUGBY By John Bridgwater

TWO late tries put paid to COBRA who remain second from bottom in rugby's Swalec Welsh League division one (north) after losing 23-9 at home to Pwllheli.

The Meifod side were in the hunt, trailing 13-9 with the wind at their backs, but a couple of tries on the break ended their hopes of victory, and even a bonus point.

Opting to play against the elements in the first period, COBRA went behind to a long range penalty from half way before the visitors extended the margin with a converted try following a driving maul.

Although another penalty made it 13-0, the hosts revived their cause when a kick through fly-half Llew Williams that reduced the arrears to 13-3 at the interval.

With the wind in their favour in the second period, the Llanfair side had a real chance of overturning the deficit, but were unable to control possession and territory as much as they would have liked against a plucky Pwllheli.

Tackling

However, they did close the gap to 13-9 courtesy of a couple of further kicks from Williams, and fancied their chances with 15 minutes remaining.

But Pwllheli, with their aggressive tackling and solid ball retention, were proving a tough nut to crack as COBRA failed to make their attacking efforts count.

As they pushed for a score, they were caught on the break as the Seasiders went over for a well worked try to extend their lead, while a second touchdown towards the end of the game from an interception sealed victory for the visitors.

It was a disappointing outcome for the Meifod outfit after the previous week's victory against Llangefni, but they remain second bottom as fellow strugglers Dolgellau had no game due to the weather.

COBRA take a break from the league action on Saturday when they head to Whitland

Girls side given RFU kit booster



The Oswestry Rugby Club girls, who have been given a brand new kit

NEWLY formed Oswestry girls' rugby team are looking the part after landing a haul of new kit courtesy of the RFU.

The side is steadily growing in numbers by the week, and has

attracted a host of future stars since the start of the season.

For many of the girls, this is the first sport they have played after being inspired by watching the recent Rugby World Cup.

Anyone interested in giving the sport a go, girls training for Under-13, Under-15 and Under-18s takes place every Monday from 5-6.15pm at Oswestry Rugby Club in Park Hall.

in the second round of the Swalec Plate Whitland (2pm).

Meanwhile, after a couple of narrow defeats, Llanidloes managed to secure a slender victory of their own when edging out Wrexham 19-13 to stop their slide in division two (north).

They had gone into the game on the back of close losses to Shotton Steel (15-11) and Denbigh (13-12), and it looked like they could be heading for

another reverse when trailing 13-12 with 10 minutes remaining.

But they managed a crucial score when wing Richard Price pounced on a kick ahead, with fly half Adam Price kicking the conversion to take their side into the Christmas break in good spirits.

Full-back Carwyn Williams and No8 Paul Jenu scored their other tries, with fly half Adam Price kicking two conversions.

Royle at the double as ladies net big win

A STRONG performance saw Oswestry Ladies ease their basement concerns in the Cheshire Women's Hockey League division two with a well-earned 3-0 victory over rock bottom Triton Ladies.

The home win lifted the border side up to seventh, although they remain just one point above the basement places, such is the congestion in the lower half of the table.

In the midst of Storm Desmond, the team were determined not to get blown away as they played well from the start with an attacking and well drilled performance.

Triton's attacking was restricted throughout the game, with only one short corner being awarded and keeper Liz Killen only being called into action a couple of times.

Oswestry, by contrast, put in a strong team performance, outclassing their visitors with fast and accurate passing play, which continued throughout regardless of who was on the pitch.

The home side took the lead through a terrific strike from Tracey Royle in the first half, and continued to apply pressure with shots just flashing past the post on a number of occasions.

The second half continued in similar vein, with Oswestry gaining further reward with two more goals from short corners – the first a Royle strike and the second a deflection from Deb Jones.

Although they continued to demonstrate skilful stick and passing play while dominating possession, the hosts were unable to drive home any more goals, despite Triton becoming quite demoralised.

The team, however, could take heart from a strong and highly positive performance as they prepare for a trip to Brooklands Poynton on Saturday in their last match before Christmas as they look to climb further up the table.

Hockey men get draw with just ten men

DEPLETED Oswestry missed a chance of closing the gap on the leaders in the West Midlands Hockey League division one after being held 2-2 at Barlaston to remain in fifth spot.

Making the trip with just 10 players, the visitors had started well enough to lead 2-0 at the interval through Jack Morgan and Gareth Kershaw.

But they faded after the break and, despite having their chances, they were pegged back in testing conditions as their fluctuating campaign continues. They are home to West Bromwich on Saturday.

Golf returns from your local club

LLANYMYNECH

Xmas Comp 2 - 4BBB: P Whale & M Jones net 57; J Proctor & J Johnson net 59 (bkjs); C Williams & S Williams net 59.

Xmas Comp 3 - Texas Scramble: H Jones, H Williams, A Williams & N Clewlow; N Roberts, T Hammer, D Humphries & D Phillips; M Davies, G Roberts, D Roberts & S Pugh.

November Medal (Stableford) Division 1: G M Pugh 40pts; D Collins 39; D Barbour 39. Division 2: A Johnson 38pts; D Peters 38pts; A Jones 38pts. Division 3: M Shakeshaft 33pts; C Logsdail 32; A R Paddison 31.

Xmas Comp 5 - 4BBB: P Anderson & I Tomkewycz; T King & C Holmes; S Pritchard & C Andrew.

Xmas Comp 6 - AM/AM: I Tomkewycz, K Lambour, L D Cook & P Anderson 82pts; A Matthews, J Jones, S Pugh & C Jones 82pts; D Barbour, N Morris, H Barbour & I Jones 81pts.

Ladies' Round Robin (Bogey Comp) Winner: A Evans +1.

November Medal Division 1: P Pritchard net 72; T Cook net 78. Division 2: D Davies net 75 (bkjs); K Andrew net 75. Division 3: R Bell net 83; M Andrew net 86. AGM 5 Holes: D Chadwick 19pts; A Westman 17pts.

OSWESTRY

Ladies Draw for Partners - 3 Clubs - Putter (18 Holes): C Pearce, A Barker, J Bucknall 58pts; D Hall, M Alford, J Ferries 58pts; M Male, M Brodgen, S Baxter 57pts; C Johnson, R Wigley, M Green 57pts; J Mitchell, Tess Hyde, M Male (wpl) 57pts.

9 Holes: J Taylor, S Wilson, P Davies 37pts; W Pugh, M Shakeshaft, J Golf 33pts.



British champion Ollie Morris

Morris crowned British champion

OSWESTRY is hailing a new champion after Elite Martial Arts star Ollie Morris landed the Lionheart British Championship title.

The semi-professional fighter landed the belt, the club's fifth since 2013, after defeating Anthony Holmes in Cannock in a unanimous decision.

Morris, 19, was praised by head coach and club owner Richard Cosgrove for his dedication, application and fine performance.

Cosgrove, himself a pro fighter, said: "It was a really good performance and a massive achievement for Ollie."

"He qualified for the belt with some good wins and was challenged by a very good fighter."

"His opponent was from a very well-known gym, Simkin MMA, who have produced world champions, but we were confident."

Morris secured an early take down in round one, but as his opponent used the cage to regain a grip, the Elite fighter was able to again floor Holmes.

He followed that up with superior boxing technique to avoid a number of jabs and land consecutive upper cuts.

The 19-year again dominated the second round,

MARTIAL ARTS by Lewis Cox

having the better of the exchanges and landing some vicious punches.

In the third and final round, Morris successfully evaded a submission attempt from his opponent before recovering and again taking the initiative.

Morris won the British crown with a unanimous decision.

"It is by far Ollie's standout moment so far," the head coach added. "We were training six days a week while watching his nutrition, diet and weight."

"I'd say it was one of the best performances in our club's history to date."

"He was dominant in every aspect of his performance, standing, wrestling and jujitsu. It went all the way on points but it was unanimous and a clear victory. He got caught and was almost put in submission but he hung out and waited."

"It was an intelligent fight and at this level you have to be, you have to use your entire skill set. There are fine margins, it's about cardio and not just core strength and your knowledge of fighting."

Sport

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local leagues – P42



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Champions face Barry in Cup test

CHAMPIONS The New Saints will be relishing the chance to renew acquaintance with one of the former giants of Welsh football, Barry Town United, in the fourth round of the Welsh Cup.

Barry were the dominant force of the League of Wales in the mid-1990s and early 2000s, only to fall from grace in spectacular fashion as the Saints emerged the side to beat in the past decade.

Now the sides come face to face again for the first time in many years with the Saints drawn away at Jenner Park in the last 16 of the competition on Saturday, February 6.

"I've had nothing to do with Barry myself, but heard stories about them, so it should be an interesting tie," said manager Craig Harrison.

It promises to be an intriguing affair between the once all-conquering Barry side and the current Welsh Premier champions and treble winners who have again swept all before them this season.

Both clubs have remarkable records in domestic Welsh football, with Barry winning seven league crowns, six Welsh Cups and four league cups.

But their achievements have been surpassed by TNS who now have nine league titles to their names, five Welsh Cup triumphs and six league cups.

Next February's encounter will evoke memories of the famous Welsh Cup final between the sides back in 1996 which TNS (then Llansantffraid) lifted the trophy on penalties following a thrilling tussle that ended 3-3 after extra time at the old Cardiff Arms Park.

Barry, now playing in the Welsh League, are enjoying better fortunes of late, and progressed in the cup with a 6-1 hammering of Denbigh Town in the third round in which James Dixon struck a cup record five goals.

Elsewhere, Guilsfield will face a home tie against Airbus UK should they overcome Cwmaman United in Saturday's rearranged tie after the first meeting was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Giant-killers Buckley Town, who beat Llandudno on penalties, will make the short trip to Gap Connah's Quay for a local derby while Cefn Druids, who beat Welsh Premier Rhyl, are drawn away to another Welsh Premier side in Newtown, who were last season's beaten finalists.

Clarke makes bow for England Lions

OSWESTRY cricketer Joe Clarke made his bow for England Lions in the T20 series against Pakistan A – but his first appearance ended in a seven-wicket defeat in Dubai.

Batting first, the Lions posted 145-6 in 20 overs, with Clarke coming in late on to score a lively 16 off 13 balls with two fours, before being caught at long off from the penultimate delivery.

Pakistan appeared to be behind the clock, but an unbroken 124-run stand for the fourth wicket saw them home with an over to spare with Ifthikhar Ahmed and Babar Azam both hitting fifties.

Clarke's international appearance came after the 19-year-old from Trefonen attended a two and a half week batting camp in Dubai ahead of the five-game T20 series.

Guilsfield to try again in Welsh Cup

GUILSFIELD'S focus will again be on the Welsh Cup this week after their scheduled third round tie against Cwmaman United was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

The Guils were due to travel to Carmarthen-shire last Saturday, but the encounter at Grenig Park was called off the day before following a ground inspection.

It means Dan Barton's men will attempt to make the trip at the second attempt, still under no illusions they will have to overcome a testing

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

tie if they are to progress to the last 16 of the competition.

Should they prevail, the villagers now know that waiting in the next round will be the visit of Welsh Premier side Airbus UK following this week's draw.

Cwmaman, based in the village of Glanamau, will be desperate to stage the game despite more

rain in West Wales. Should it be called off again, they face the prospect of losing home advantage to the Guils. United are currently going well in the Welsh League division two with seven wins and just one defeat to lie fifth in the table.

They have not played for five weeks in the league, but are just four points off the top with three games in hand on leaders Undy United.

They reached the third round after recovering from two goals down to win 4-2 against Caldicot Town.

TNS FOCUS ON ABER RETURN

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

MANAGER Craig Harrison will be chasing a quickfire double when The New Saints tackle Aberystwyth Town at Park Hall in the Dafabet Welsh Premier on Friday night (7.45pm).

Having breezed past the Seasiders 3-0 in the third round of the Welsh Cup over the weekend, the Saints are firm favourites to again prevail when the sides meet for the second time in six days.

Victory would take the defending champions 14 points clear at the top, but boss Harrison insists his side cannot take anything for granted despite last Saturday's comprehensive cup win.

"The cup's now in the past, we enjoyed that win, but this is going to be a totally different game," he warned.

"Last week may not have been the toughest of games, but they had a couple of players out, and I'm sure they would have learned something from Saturday.

Experience

"They will come here with a game plan, look to make it tougher for us. and no two games are the same. They have got a lot of experience in their team, players who have won league titles and Welsh Cup, so we can expect a difficult game, and they've got (defender) Lee Surman back from suspension who will make a big difference."

Harrison felt his side were on top of their game as they opened the defence of the cup with a comprehensive 3-0 win over Aberystwyth, despite a strong wind making life tricky at Park Hall.

"We put in a big performance against Airbus the week before and carried it on in the Welsh Cup," he added. "The last two weeks have been two of our best performances of the season."

"Conditions were difficult with the wind, but we adapted well as we like to keep the ball down and pass."

"We got an early goal, and showed a good appetite to win the game. We could have won by a few more, we had a few chances, had a goal disallowed for offside, should have had a penalty. But



Man of the match Chris Seargeant on the attack for TNS against Aberystwyth. Pic: Brian Jones.

our keeper Paul Harrison had to make a really important save early in the second half when it was 2-0.

"Had they scored then, it could have shifted the momentum in the game, and would have given them something to play for, but he again showed why he is the most reliable goalkeeper in the league when called upon."

Mike Wilde, Phil Baker and Alex Darlington have recovered from injuries while defender Connell Rawlinson, who has missed 12 weeks with what has been diagnosed as two fractures in his back, has returned to training and should be

available for selection over Christmas.

Carl Darlington has returned to the club as first team coach after leaving last season to join Wrexham. He will work alongside manager Craig Harrison and coach Scott Roscoe, while also continuing his role as Head of Coach Education at the Welsh Football Trust.

Treble-winners TNS were nominated in the team of the year category at the annual BBC Wales Sport personality awards in Cardiff, with the honour going to the Welsh football team.

COBRA on the road for Plate duty

COBRA take a break from their base-met pressures when they make the trip to Whitland on Saturday in the second round of rugby's Swalec Plate (2pm).

After having a bye in the first round, the Meifod side enter the competition along with several of the big boys as they look to put their struggles in the Swalec League division one (north) behind them.

However, their opening tie is a tricky prospect against Division One West outfit Whitland, who are a Scarlets feeder club, associated with current Welsh internationals Mike Phillips, Jonathan Davies and Scott Williams.

It's been a difficult start to the season for COBRA, who remain second from bottom in division one (north) after last week's 23-9 loss to Pwllheli who grabbed two late tries.

Meanwhile, OSWESTRY's challenge in the Cheshire South was put on hold after their home clash with Isle of Man side Vagabonds was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Despite having no action, they remain second in the league, three points behind leaders Manchester Medics, but with a game in hand.

Looking to make it 10 league wins out of 11, the border side are away to Eagle on Saturday.

Harriers runners fly the Welsh flag

A HOST of runners from Maldwyn Harriers will fly the flag for North Wales at the Welsh Inter Area Cross-Country Championships at Builth Wells on Saturday.

Young guns Sally Murton, Dan Stones and Connor Owen have been invited to run in the under-13 category, while Shannon Walker, Kate Jerman and Dillon Gill will compete at under-15 level.

Welsh international Joseph Crutchley is joined by Kaya Saul in the under-17s boys' race with Margo Martin and Todd Tanner chosen at under-20.

Tim Davies and Nicola Davies, who have both impressed in the Herefordshire League this year are rewarded with selection in the Senior Men and Women's races where Nicola will be joined by club mate Nikki Grainger. Evergreen Ed Davies lines up in the men's over 50 event.

"It is extremely gratifying to see so many Harriers asked to represent their region at such a prestigious and competitive championship event," said club spokesman Dave Peters.

"This reflects the range of talent in the club across all age groups and we of course wish them every success."

It's good Evans

A HOLE in one from Nick Evans set up a victory in Lakeside Golf Club's Texas Scramble Massacre. Evans fired his ace on the sixth hole as he and partner Nigel Price stormed ahead with a five-point winning margin of 46 points.

Second went to Joe Davies and Marius Van Lil who edged out Kev Lloyd and Andy Wyatt on the countback, with both pairs scoring 41 points.

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On your tour of the 19 state rooms you will learn about the history of the house and the treasures of the Spencer collections, before enjoying festive refreshments served on Spencer family china in the State Dining Room.

Stratford-upon-Avon is also visited during this short break. This attractive market town is most famous for being the birthplace of William Shakespeare, with five historic buildings linked to the Bard. You may also like to take a

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions. Pick-up points offered include Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall, Wolverhampton

Each year André Rieu, the 'Waltz King of Europe', performs a series of concerts in his hometown of Maastricht in The Netherlands.

The Vrijthof concerts, set amongst the cultural backdrop of this beautiful town, have become one of the most popular concerts in his yearly schedule.

He founded The Johann Strauss Orchestra in 1987, which now consists of up to 50 musicians, performing all over the world. Along with his orchestra he has been instrumental in reviving waltz music and bringing it to a whole new audience.

During the concert guests will hear music from across André's repertoire, including delightful melodies from operas, musicals, films and the world of classical music, plus a few catchy waltzes.

The innovative stage performances recreate the atmosphere of 19th century Viennese Dance Halls and are famed for their high energy drama and sense of fun.

Also included in the trip is some free time in Maastricht where there is the chance to shop and sightsee at leisure. And don't miss the cobbled streets around the Vrijthof Square which are full of attractive cafes, bars and shops.

A five day concert break by coach, a three day break by Eurostar, and a three and a five day break by air are also available - see brochure for details.

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SELECTED WEEKEND DEPARTURES



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- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)
- ✓ Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V7870)

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions. Pick-up points offered include Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall, Wolverhampton

Prices from
£269

DAYS: 3 DEPARTS: July 10, 2015

